Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-018
Tuesday
28 January 1992

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ARAB-ISRAELI TALKS

Palestinians—Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat said his multilateral talks team would not participate in negotiations unless the delegation was permitted to include residents from East Jerusalem and the diaspora, Amman radio reported. The delegates, who huddled with State Department officials in Moscow in an effort to resolve the matter, are studying a compromise proposal submitted by Secretary of State Baker, AFP noted. The Palestinians boycotted the opening session of the talks.

Israel—Jerusalem radio broadcast the text of Foreign Minister David Levi's opening speech to the multilateral talks on 28 January, in which Levi pledged Israeli cooperation to "rehabilitate the refugees in the entire region." Nevertheless, the government said it was "surprised" at Secretary Baker's announcement that a fifth working group on the refugee problem would convene in Moscow, and expressed its opposition to the meeting, Tel Aviv radio noted.

Jordan—In his opening address to the conference broadcast by Amman radio, Foreign Minister Abu-Jabir said Jordan had a vested interest in promoting political and economic stability in the region. He said Amman would not serve as a representative of the diaspora Palestinians, adding that Israel could not demand recognition "while at the same time absolving itself of its historic responsibility toward the Palestinian people."

Japan—Foreign Minister Watanabe said his government would play a role in the peace process by helping to combat the region's environmental problems, Tokyo television reported. Speaking at the opening session of the Moscow talks, Watanabe offered to improve sewage treatment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as clean up polluted areas in the Gulf of Aqaba.

ISRAEL

Finance Ministry officials were "enraged" over a published report on an economic delegation's "secret" departure to Washington to lobby for U.S. approval of loan guarantees, HA'ARETZ disclosed. The Israeli ambassador to Washington and the director of the Finance Ministry attended a "secret meeting" that agreed to dispatch the delegation, according to the paper. In another development, the Knesset rejected no-confidence motions submitted by five opposition factions, Jerusalem television reported. The rejection passed 55 to 49 with 5 abstentions, the television noted.

LEBANON

The Israeli Defense Forces and Southern Lebanese Army reinforced their presence in southern Lebanon to avert "increased terrorist activity" on the opening day of the multilateral talks in Moscow, Jerusalem radio noted. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier as they conducted reconnaisance sorties over southern Lebanon on 28 January, Voice of Lebanon reported.

ALGERIA

Authorities here arrested 14 Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders and detained 20 Islamic clergymen for questioning, Paris International disclosed. Meanwhile, the interior minister vowed not to "give in" to pressure from the FIS, the radio added.

AFGHANISTAN-IRAN

Afghan President Najibollah sent a "friendly goodwill" message to Iranian President Velayati, Kabul radio reported. The message alluded to political and military changes in the region and noted the need for "new forms of cooperation in the framework of the neighborly relations" between the countries.

NEPAL

Prime Minister Koiraloa opened a three-day conference on disarmament and nuclear arms proliferation that included representatives from 27 countries, Hong Kong AFP reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians Go To Moscow; 'Urayqat 'Skeptical'

JN2701205892 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks left Amman for Moscow this afternoon. Foreign ministers from 40 countries will participate in tomorrow's multilateral talks, which are expected to tackle regional issues such as water, disarmament, security, and refugees. The Palestinian delegation included Dr. 'Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, Zahirah Kamal, and Zakariya al-Agha.

Dr. 'Urayqat spoke to our reporter Maha al-Sha'ir:

[Begin recording] [al-Sha'ir] Dr. Sa'ib can you tell us why the Palestinians were skeptical in attending the multilaterals?

['Urayqat] For a variety of reasons. First of all, they are trying to impose the Madrid formula on us, meaning that only Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza would participate. And this would mean a split in the Palestinian people. So, we insisted that the delegation be composed of Palestinians from the inside, Jerusalem, and outside. And the [PLO] Executive Committee had decided to compose a delegation that will include Palestinians from East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and the outside. We are going as one delegation. We know that the Israelis reject united Palestinian delegation. We think that the U.S. rejects this delegation. If we will go (?into) the ceremony (?then) the meeting rooms, we will go as one delegation. If we are not allowed, we will not enter.

[al-Sha'ir] What are the chances you might not be allowed, and you would come back?

['Urayqat] That is possible. It is possible. But we show the world that we are going there as one delegation. The multilaterals are dealing with issues with final status. We cannot really deal with the issues of refugees while we have 3 million refugees outside are not be represented there. There are issues of economic development, water, and [changes thought] it is the shape of the Middle East in the final stage. And we have a promise that once you reach negotiations of the final stage that Palestinian from East Jerusalem and outside will participate. I would like to say also that our hesitation to participate in the multilaterals is due to the fact that we have made no progress whatsoever in the bilaterals. Israel still rejects 242, land for peace, still continuing their settlements policies. Ever since Madrid they have been escalating their policies in the occupied territories. [end recording]

Delegates Awaiting Response on Participation

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Comment

JN2801095892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Palestinian delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat last night said that the Palestinians will not participate in the multilateral Middle East talks unless an eight-member Palestinian delegation, which includes representatives from occupied Jerusalem and the diaspora, is accepted at the negotiating table.

Faysal al-Husayni, one of the personalities from the occupied territories, also said that the Palestinians will wait until 0800 Moscow time today to receive the response of the United States and Russia to this request addressed to the peace conference cosponsors. The two Palestinian officials announced this at the end of a more than 3-hour meeting of the Palestinian delegates in Moscow at the Palestine Embassy in Russia. 'Urayqat revealed a list of the names of the Palestinian delegates who are supposed to represent the Palestinians.

The delegation includes Faysal al-Husayni, the chief delegate, who, along with Zahirah Kamal, represent the occupied Jerusalem Palestinians; Kamil Mansur, Yazid al-Sa'igh, and Anis al-Qasim, representing the diaspora; and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Zakariya al-Agha, and Ghassan al-Khatib, representing the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians.

A Palestinian source said that the Palestinian delegates last night met with two of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's assistants; namely, Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, and Dennis Ross, a high-ranking U.S. State Department official, during which the Palestinian request was discussed.

Asked whether the Palestinians will participate in the Moscow talks even if their demands were not met, the Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said: I doubt that. However, we must wait and see what happens.

Conditions for Participation Noted

TA2701162592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks demands as a condition for participation the inclusion in the delegation of two residents from East Jerusalem, two representatives of the Palestinian diaspora, two representatives from the territories, and a chairman. Delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that the delegation will not participate in the talks unless this composition is approved. [passage omitted]

Opening Session Boycotted; Baker 'Compromise'

AU2801115892 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, Jan 28 (AFP)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has proposed a compromise to secure Palestinian participation at multilateral Middle East peace talks, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said Tuesday.

She said the delegation was studying the proposal, which would allow Palestinians from outside the Israeli-occupied territories to take part in committee discussions on regional issues.

'Ashrawi was addressing a press conference here hours after her team decided to boycott the opening session of multilateral talks.

Levi—Palestinians Changing Rules of 'Game'

TA2801111192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Natan Gutman at the Aerostar Hotel in Moscow "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Gutman] Foreign Minister David Levi, after half a day of discussions at the multilateral conference, do you have any reason to be pleased?

[Levi] I think that Israel has reason to be satisfied. The conditions presented 24 hours ago were unacceptable. Our position to remain loyal to the agreed upon principles was honored. The Palestinians once again tried to change the rules of the game. They did not succeed, however, because we warned the Russians and the Americans that when there are arguments with Israel, it stands firm on what is vital to it and sometimes is tough, but it is known for honoring what it has signed. We therefore demand that all the sides honor what was agreed with them. That is what happened.

The participation was very impressive. We received positive reactions to our message about comparing the cost of war with the advantages of peace.

[Natan] Mr. Levi, do you have any promise that tomorrow, when the talks move to the committees, the Palestinians will turn up under what are called the Madrid criteria, or will representatives from the Palestinian diaspora also be attending?

[Levi] Our path is one long struggle in the political sphere. So far we have succeeded.

[Gutman] Are you preparing for another struggle tomorrow?

[Levi] If it is necessary, then we will be prepared for it. We will not yield, and we will not agree to any diversion. If milestones are removed, the path is lost. I therefore said that whoever tries this will be throwing a wrench in the peace works. They understand the hint, and I am pleased that they are honoring what was agreed upon with us.

Israelis 'Surprised' by Baker Remarks on Refugees

TA2801115792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Report by Moshe Hakohen]

[Text] Jerusalem was surprised by Secretary Baker's remarks in his speech in Moscow this morning that a fifth working group on the refugee problem will be convened in Moscow, in addition to the four agreed upon committees on arms control, water problems, ecology, and economic cooperation. Baker's announcement, it is said in Jerusalem, contravenes the agreement reached on that issue with thE sponsors on the eve of the Moscow conference. The Israeli opposition to discuss the refugee issue at this stage is directly linked to the issue of Palestinian representation, which is also casting a shadow on the plenum.

In earlier consultations, it was made clear to Israel that the Arabs insist on the incorporation of Palestinians from the diaspora and East Jerusalem in the working groups. Israel, which considers this a violation of the criteria for Palestinian representation as decided on in Madrid, announced its opposition. Israel proposed that the working group on refugees not be convened in Moscow in order to avoid differences and even a breakup of the conference. The sponsors accepted Israel's position, but during last night's contacts, in which Secretary Baker participated, the United States and Russia changed their stands, apparently in order to please the Palestinians and the other Arab delegations.

Israel is firm in its position that the working group on refugees will not convene because, according to the basic guidelines of the conference, such a thing requires the consent of all the sides. It appears, therefore, that in the long run, Israel's position will win the day. At the same time, Israel continues to firmly oppose the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora and East Jerusalem within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Moscow plenum.

It should be pointed out that since Minister Levi's arrival in Moscow, there has been no direct contact between him and Mr. Shamir. Sources in the prime minister's bureau said that the prime minister has full confidence that the foreign minister will act according to the government's clear policy on all matters relating to the controversial issues in Moscow. Therefore, there is no need for additional coordination between the two or for new instructions.

Israeli Foreign Minister Addresses Opening Session

TA2801094892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0734 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Address by Foreign Minister David Levi to the opening session of the multilateral Middle East talks at the Hall of Columns in the House of the Union in Moscow—live]

[Text] Honorable Cochairmen: The convening here in Moscow of representatives of countries from all over the world with the defined and declared aim of eliminating the danger of war in the Middle East and the establishment of cooperation among the regional nations is an occasion that is characteristic of the dramatic events of our era. Only yesterday, nobody could have conceived of this conference, which is motivated by a common international desire to drastically change ways of life and ways of thinking and to create an atmosphere of trust on the way to peace. We found ourselves in a totally different geopolitical world then. A centralized communist regime prevailed in Moscow and the East European capitals. The Cold War between the blocs blocked every attempt to promote peace in the Middle East. Uncompromising enmity, fed by six wars which took place within only two decades, divided Israel and the Arab countries. On the other hand, both Eastern and Western countries engaged in arming and nurturing Saddam Husayn, against whose aggression most countries convened here joined hands a year ago today. Now he is again engaged in a buildup and threatening the region's safety anew.

Sirs, the lesson learned from all these events is the absolute necessity to build mutual confidence, which we indeed want to create, and a belief in the need as well as in the ability to turn the vision of war into one of peace and cooperation, in the Middle East as well. It is trust in the process of nations' and rulers' disillusionment with the intoxicating sense of false power—trust that derives from the desire and determination to embark on the path of life, which was born out of tiredness with war and destruction.

Honorable cochairmen, it is my pleasant duty to express gratitude to the ministers and delegations who joined hands on this historic occasion. My deep appreciation to the host, the government of an independent Russia, as well as to each of the republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which seeks to institute a new regime. Special thanks go to the U.S. nation and President for the exemplary, brave leadership which the entire world has witnessed and to U.S. Secretary of State Baker for his contribution and determination in moving this historic wheel: the peace process.

The region to which we want to bring new tidings is the region which was the herald of culture, faith, and peace to the world. It is this region that bestowed on humanity the Book of Books, the Koran, and the New Testament. The word peace is the epitome of the gospel of the Israeli people and the Arab nations. Both greet each other with: Peace unto you—al-salam 'alaykum in Arabic—and answer with: Peace be with you; 'alaykum al-salam. This greeting is deeply rooted in our cultures and has withstood all the tests of time. How tragic it is, how paradoxical, that peace itself, like the rainbow, is so near and within reach, but still unattainable and longed for.

Honorable cochairmen, the Gulf crisis taught us many lessons which have accelerated the emergence of changes in world concepts regarding international relations. It underlined the direct link between danger to world peace and stability and the stockpiling of arms by dictatorships. It also demonstrated the determination of countries to confront that danger and its origins.

From Israel's viewpoint, no less important is the lesson learned about the origins and real reasons for the problems of the Middle East. The fact that the Arab states and the State of Israel faced a joint danger from a dictatorial, repressive regime which threatened the entire Arabian peninsula, the fact that that regime itself is an Arab regime, contributed in a very basic and clear way to the world's recognition—including that of most of the Arab countries themselves—of the need to end and the possibility of ending the ongoing bitter and barren conflict between them and Israel.

For two generations there has been a state of war between the Arab peoples and Israel, and three times in each generation wars have broken out, destruction has been sowed, and nothing has been gained. Some 100,000 people, most at the beginning of their lives, perished in these needless wars. Of them, over 17,000 were Israelis and more than 80,000 were Arabs. There were some 250,000 casualties in these wars, of them some 40,000 Israelis and over 200,000 Arabs. No price can be affixed to the loss of life; however, there is a heavy and measurable price for the cost of the military buildup necessitated by the very existence of the continued state of war.

In the past decade alone, up to 1990, the countries of the region allocated over $500 billion for the procurement of arms and other defense costs. Arms imports to these countries constituted 35 percent of the world arms trade, which was almost twice as large as the armament expenditures by NATO and the Warsaw Pact together, which amounted to 22 percent of world trade.

We will better appreciate the meaning of these astonishing figures if we recall that the price of a single tank can finance the annual studies of 1,000 students at institutions of higher education and that the price of a single advanced fighter plane equals the outlays for the annual education of 100,000 schoolchildren. Israel's National Water Carrier project, which transports water from the Sea of Galilee in the north of the country to the Negev in the south, cost some $400 million in today's prices. The huge Aswan Dam in Egypt was built about 30 years ago at a cost of $5 billion at today's prices. The cost of building the large tunnel under the English Channel linking the European Continent and England is estimated at $10 billion. These examples underline the size of the loss to the region's inhabitants. The peoples of the

region have for two generations been enslaving their assets, riches, and human resources to an ongoing arms race, a futile race. Not only the war itself, but the continued existence of the state of war itself leads to the destruction of the infrastructure, holds up progress, and perpetuates distress and frustration. The peoples of the Middle East, who marked the Golden Age in advancing culture, architecture, mathematics, and the physical sciences, are in our era on the losing side of the profit and loss balance sheet.

Honorable cochairmen, our region is saturated with arms but hungry for progress and thirsty for peace. This is the utter truth. We should not continue to see this situation as a fait accompli. This is not a preordained decree. We must not, God forbid, cross the point beyond which there is no longer any hope. Therefore, we attribute supreme importance to the fact that the multilateral meeting has placed on its agenda the issue of arms control and arms race limitation, coupled with confidence-building measures, as an essential step on the road toward the consolidation of agreements for security in the region. We are living at the beginning of an era in which democracies are gradually disarming and using their resources for mutual cooperation for the good of their nations. The process of the evolution of the EC into a firm alliance of nations is a clear example of this. Countries that once shed the blood of millions in terrible wars today open their borders to the free movement of people and goods, to scientific and cultural exchanges. Yesterday's enemy has turned into today's neighbor and partner.

Honorable cochairmen, from the small town in which I live in the Jordan Valley in my land, Israel, I can follow the process of the materialization of the vision of cooperation as a means of fortifying peace. In this valley, the Jordan River forms the border between Israel and its Jordanian neighbor. For years the Israeli side of the valley was green and prosperous due to advanced agricultural produce, while the Jordanian side was arid and deserted. Throughout that period, the shooting and terrorist incidents against Israel from across the Jordan River did not cease. As the years went by, the Jordanians learned from their Israeli neighbors that life could take a different course, and today they are engaged in modern agriculture. They built hothouses and prosperous villages on the eastern side of the river. Likewise, they also learned to use the Dead Sea resources. The Jordan Valley has been peaceful ever since, and the citizens of both countries exchange information instead of fire. Another example is the agricultural farms set up in Egypt in recent years on the basis of Israeli-Egyptian cooperation and with the joint effort of Israeli and Egyptian experts. Egypt can testify to and Israel can take pride in their excellent yields and the quality of their product. The Good Fence policy [on the Lebanese border] in these distressful times, as well as the policy of open bridges across the Jordan River, also bear witness to Israel's desire for cooperation with its neighbors and the contribution of this cooperation to quiet on the borders. From this microcosm, under these difficult conditions, we can learn about the macrocosm under other conditions: conditions of peace.

Israel is offering its neighbors extensive cooperation, which could lead to rehabilitation and prosperity in a broad range of aspects of life. We will create a new Middle East, not in the distant future, but in these very days. Israel is talking about practical plans which can be implemented. The Middle East is mostly arid and thirsty for water. Israel has gained a great deal of experience in economical irrigation methods which produce some of the best agricultural yields in the world. We will also share our know-how in desalinating sea water, in transporting water from locations in our region where it is plentiful, and in enriching underground water. We will put the technologies acquired by Israel in many fields, including solar energy, at the disposal of this cooperation effort. We will work together to overcome disease in flora and fauna, whose sources do not recognize political boundaries. Ecological afflictions do not recognize geographic concepts. Only a year ago, the entire world was shocked by the sight of the dying cormorant in the Gulf waters and was shaken by the columns of black smoke rising from the Kuwaiti oil wells which polluted the air as far as Iran in the east and the African coast in the west.

Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt are situated around the Elat-Aqaba Gulf, which is startling in its beauty and which attracts many tourists. These countries have a joint, urgent interest in safeguarding the waters and coastlines from ecological damage.

We will act together to rehabilitate the refugees in the entire region, whose distress is the price of peace rejectionism. We will also cope with the challenge of disease and the low life expectancy which characterize our region. Israel has thousands of doctors and scientists who are coming here in the immigration wave from the Commonwealth of Independent States. We will share with the peoples of the region the great treasure embodied in the human resources and knowledge from that aliyah. Together we will view them as we would like them to be: a peace corps, a medical corps for the benefit of millions of people in the region. All that and more will constitute the cornerstones and milestones of peace. They will also serve as the foundation for peace, when it comes. Let us all make an effort to replace the means of destruction with tools of creation, a death potion that will be converted into the elixir of life and wrath into the fruits of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot conclude without recalling the words of two distinguished personalities whose voices were the vanguard of peace and reverberate in our region and the entire world. The late President Anwar al-Sadat said: Our aim is no more war, no more bloodshed. The then Prime Minister of Israel made the declaration: Wars must and can be avoided; peace is inevitable. Thank you.

Jordanian Foreign Minister's Opening Speech

JN2801092692 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0754 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Speech delivered in English by Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir at the opening session of the Moscow multilateral Middle East peace conference—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you. [preceding two sentences in Arabic]

Mr. Secretary of State James Baker, Mr. Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev, distinguished guests:

The peace conference held in Madrid on the 30th of October 1991 was a watershed in the troubled history of our region where the hopes of the peoples of the Middle East for security and progress were rekindled, and we embarked together on the long and difficult path to peace and prosperity. Our presence today in Moscow testifies to the enduring nature of our commitment to those ideals. Now, representatives of the parties to the process, its cosponsers, and states from other regions of the world are gathered to put the peace process on a regional footing. This is a development that Jordan welcomes and we take this opportunity to state again our commitment to peace and to pledge once more all our efforts, resources, and experience to the attainment of that noble goal.

The possibility of resolving one of the most intractable disputes in the world is a chance which must not be wasted. We have the opportunity to elaborate and adopt measures to realize a conceptual structure for the most vital issues in the Middle East today—regional security, economic development, the refugee issue and humanitarian concerns, water, energy, and the protection of the environment. Within such a framework, inter-state and ethnic or religious conflicts can be more easily and peacefully resolved and the way will be open for all members of the Middle East community to employ their natural and human resources in cooperation and harmony rather than competition and conflict. The consequences of failure would be extremely serious, especially in view of the grave perils inherent in the political economy of despair and the availability of the weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Every state in the region and beyond will be vulnerable to the dangers beyond imagining. One may wonder whether effective security arrangements can be made while there are unresolved conflicts in which some states are in theory at war with others, or do not recognize the right of others to exist, or while there are other large communities with no defined national status, which cannot be expected to accept responsibilities without rights. We certainly have no illusions about the complexities of the issues that face us. We are conscious of the difficulties involved in the enterprise of reconciling political differences in a non-political framework. How in essence to achieve security if there is no peace and how to achieve peace if there is no security. The way out of this dilemma is surely to work along parallel lines integrating peace and security into a regional framework which both establishes the basis on which peace can be achieved and creates the conditions in which it can be securely maintained.

Ladies and gentlemen, this conference has been convened in conformity with the principles of UN Charter to uphold the provisions of international law and to protect its legitimacy. At the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a cardinal principle of international law, the nonadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. Jordan has always maintained that the basis of an equitable and sustainable peace must stem from the United Nations Charter and must uphold the will of the international community embodied in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for the exchange of territory for peace while safeguarding the security of all states in the region, including Israel.

It is regrettable that the Palestinian people are not represented at this conference. I personally feel sad. They should be able to participate in this process, in all of its future sessions and in all of its groups, including the setting up of a group on Palestinian refugees, since their question is the core of the entire Arab-Israeli conflict. We should deeply contemplate the thought that without solving the Palestinian question there will be no true peace in our region. We would like to have seen Palestinians from outside the occupied territories as well as those from East Jerusalem represented here today. After all, this conference deals with regional problems beyond the reach of those living in the occupied territories. Their presence in the bilateral talks is of great relevance, since these deal with measures to establish the interim self-government authority. Such an arrangement, however, cannot be logically and practically expected to address problems such as that of the refugees, most of whom live outside of their homeland. Without the presence of diaspora Palestinians, this conference cannot reach any reasonable solution to the problems of the region—water, disarmament, regional development, and the environment, as well as the Palestinian refugees.

Israel cannot demand recognition while at the same time absolving itself of its historic responsibility toward the Palestinian people. We in Jordan cannot be made to shoulder the responsibility of the diaspora Palestinians. Experience has taught us that a complex peace process requires political will and good faith from all partners to the negotiations. It cannot then make sense for Israel to violate international law by building new settlements in the occupied territories and expanding existing ones while the future status of the land in question is being negotiated. The status of Jerusalem varies in the minds of different people. Israel, for instance, speaks of a Jerusalem that encompasses one fifth of the West Bank, while the world at large thinks of it simply as a walled holy city, a meeting place of the shrines of the three great monotheistic religions. We in Jordan understand its status in the context of the United Nations Security

Council Resolution 242 as an integral part of the occupied territories. The holy city is the symbol and the essence of peace in the region, a city beyond political exigency that could serve as a spiritual and pragmatic model for (?complex) resolution. But peace can never be ensured unless the supremacy of international law is upheld. Arab sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem must, therefore, be restored within the context of an inter-faith agreement, guaranteeing free access to the religious shrines of the worshipers of all faiths. Only then can Jerusalem serve as a shining example to the rest of the world of what can be achieved when true peace is the objective of nations. Brute force should never be acceptable means for the settlement of disputes. Rather, international law and the will of the international community applied with integrity and consistency are the only viable bases for the regulation of conduct between sovereign states. It has always been Jordan's tradition to act accordingly. His Majesty King Husayn expressed this very clearly in his address to the European parliament in Strasbourg on the 11th of September, 1991, on which occasion he said, and I quote: Power must be identified with a sense of responsibility, and the strictest adherence to lofty principles and ideals. Wars must be averted, weapons of mass destruction must be controlled, and eventually eliminated. Unquote. How can anyone truly calculate and comprehend the impact of the suffering inflicted upon the innocent victims, the civilian populations, and especially the children, the children like those of Palestine and of Iraq.

Many of our problems with which we must contend are international. It is the intention of the Jordanian delegation to seek in these meetings the adoption of an agenda which will address at the same time the inner connected and related problems of security, peace, humanitarian concerns,and economic disparities. We do not believe that it is possible to have peace while the arms race escalates, and the quest for strategic domination continues and intensifies. Nor can economic cooperation, trade, and investment be tackled without reference to the issues of water resources, demography, and the endemic problem of indebtedness. Without peace and stability, neither humanitarian concerns nor democratic practices can take root and develop. In short, the states of the Middle East need security and regional cooperation mechanisms that address their problems in other than military terms.

Ladies and gentlemen: Jordan has a special interest in seeking inter-regional and international structures for peace and cooperation. There is a gross imbalance between the political role which Jordan has played in the past and which is now being asked of it to play in the present and in the future and between its financial and economic capabilities. Deprived of natural resources on the one hand and of natural markets and trading partners on the other, Jordan has had to shoulder the integration of successive waves of refugees, returnees, and other migrants. We are proud to have sustained our humanitarian tradition in spite of the overburdened economy in an unstable region. Of the short-term cost of the rehabilitation, just to give you an example, the short-term cost of the rehabilitation of the recent 300,000 returnees, estimated at $4.5 billion , is too high for Jordan to absorb. Jordan's needs are not simply for credits, loans, subsidies, and grants. Our most urgent need is for new arrangements which will take the pressure off our society and our economy. Security, therefore, is not simply a question of arms control or non-nuclear proliferation agreements and so on. Security is founded upon the inner stability of the nation's states of the region. This inner stability can only be achieved when there is healthy relationship between the government and the governed, when basic human needs are guaranteed and legally protected, when governments are able to provide the resources necessary to achieve a decent standard of living for all.

It is regrettable in our view that this wider concept of security has not in the past been understood and accepted by many. The diversion of wealth and capital into non-productive and dangerous activities such as military escalation deprives the whole region of the investment which it needs. With the adoption of this concept of security and a greater cooperation between states, such as the one we seek, we lay the foundations for the future that [as heard] material disparities that currently undermine the security of many of the states of the region will be eliminated. It would be discriminatory as well as self-defeating to exclude certain countries from the benefits flowing from the peace dividend of the regional approach to economic development and reconstruction. Jordan recognizes that peacemaking ultimately depends on collective efforts. The development of common interests will serve as a foundation for the institutional framework envisaged for the administration of regional security and cooperation.

We believe that the Helsinki process provides a precedent for the purpose of addressing humanitarian issues where people count. We, therefore, view a cooperative global framework for the resolution of our interconnected regional problems, a conference on security and cooperation for the Middle East as the structure most likely to yield lasting resolutions satisfactory to all. And finally, ladies and gentlemen, we believe that such a model can eliminate the political economy of despair and provide a root to democratization, freedom of expression, human rights, the alternative political economy of peace, security, and progress. Proposals for a regional development fund, a debt-sinking fund, a regional development and reconstruction bank have already been made. A regional mechanism to regulate and supervise arms control as well as a regional water regime should be considered. Collective effort facilitated by communication and cooperation in the face of common challenges is the key to the success in the years to come. It is the sincere hope of the Jordanian delegation that we shall be able to look to our problems objectively and dispassionately, that we shall be able to overcome prejudice and confrontational points of view,

and that we shall have the courage to make difficult decisions even when they appear to upset previously accepted notions and positions. We must be prepared to enter into the process with our minds fixed firmly on the future and not on the past, to make our choices not for the exigencies of a given moment, but for the viability of all of our tomorrows. For only then can peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East be guaranteed, and only then will the generations to come judge our endeavors as worthy of our ideals, and I thank you, ladies and gemntlemen. [applause]

Egyptian Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

NC2701164092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the multilateral peace talks scheduled to begin in Moscow tomorrow are procedural and part of the peace process.

At a news conference attended by Egyptian correspondents in Moscow today, Musa said Egypt believes these talks must be held based on the land-for-peace principle. He reiterated that this formula applies to both the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Musa stressed that progress in the multilateral talks is closely linked with bilateral talks progress. He stressed that the application of the land-for-peace principle is bound to propel peace efforts and bring about a just and balanced peace, rather than one which favors one party at the expense of another. He recalled that during the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations, there was insistence on applying the land-for-peace principle and that peace prevailed between the two countries when the Egyptian lands were restored.

Musa emphasized that applying the land-for-peace formula is the key to progress in the peace process.

Responding to a question on the lateral stages of negotiations, Musa said the matter depends on extensive consultations and on monitoring the bilateral negotiations and Israel's practices. He remarked that it is these things which will help or preclude progress in the multilateral talks.

On the role of the international community, Musa said the community should watch and follow up on what is happening, help bring about peace, work to halt settlement building in the occupied territories, and refrain from giving Israel any assistance that would help settle immigrants or continue settlement building.

He stressed that the international community must help the overall peace process and propel the multilateral talks by insisting on the application of the land-for-peace formula. He remarked that the international community does not mean the United States and the EC alone, but the United Nations and all world states as well.

Musa was asked about Israel's attempts to hold early elections and whether this will have any bearing on the peace process. Musa said any normal development should not be suspected as an act of ill will. Holding the Israeli elections on time or before the scheduled date is a purely internal issue and these matters should be considered with an open mind, he said. He said if the Israeli elections are to be held two or three months before scheduled, we should ask ourselves whether the objective is to obstruct negotiations or to respond to a domestic situation, adding that this question is being examined closely both in Egypt and internationally. In any case, Musa said, we hope the Israeli elections—if they are held before scheduled—will be conducted as quickly as possible and will not involve one-upmanship, which would more adversely effect the peace process than the Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Touching on Arab representation at the multilateral talks, Musa said Palestinian participation is very important, because the Palestinian people are as much a part of the region as Israel. Therefore, they must take part in any process involving a discussion of the region's future. Egypt welcomes the Palestinian decision to participate, as we have heard, and we expect the Palestinian delegation to arrive this evening, he said.

Musa said he will meet this evening with the Arab delegation heads to coordinate stands on tomorrow's meeting.

Musa also said he will meet tomorrow with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. On the issues to be discussed, he said they will cover all peace-related issues as well as the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel, which Egypt wants clarified.

Musa asserted that Egypt does not interfere with the U.S. decisionmaking process and that it is well aware America supports Israel and other countries. But, he said, this support is one thing and the support which would enhance Israel's ability to settle immigrants in the occupied territories is another. He said this issue is very serious and Israel should not be enabled to do that, otherwise the peace process itself will be useless. He added that the Arab territories are being eaten up day after day, and if Israel obtains loans or guarantees, the entire peace process will collapse. He said Egypt believes the U.S. Administration should handle this matter in a well-balanced manner.

The foreign minister said the peace initiative is an American one and that there is American interest in pushing the situation toward peace and creating a favorable atmosphere. Therefore, he added, I expect that the U.S. Administration will handle the guarantees issue in a way that will not harm the peace process.

Touching on settlement building, Musa said there is no negotiating on this issue because it essentially breaks the law and is illegal. He said Egypt's view is that settlement

building is a basic issue which has bearing on the peace process. If the building continues, it will ruin the peace process, he emphasized.

On the Russian role in the multilateral talks, Musa said it is not wrong and is required, because Russia has a significant role which it has been playing since the Madrid conference.

Concluding his news conference, Musa answered a question on Syria's and Lebanon's absence from the Moscow talks. He said Syria and Lebanon did not boycott the multilateral talks entirely; they merely refrained from attending this session because the conditions they believe should be fulfilled have not been. He further explained that this is reasonable logic, because unless there is progress in the bilateral talks, there can be no progress in multilateral ones, even if tomorrow's meeting is held.

He added that the Moscow meeting is part of an integrated peace process and that Egypt believes the application of the land-for- peace formula should be the basis of any negotiations. If progress is made in applying this formula, we can build on that by making progress in and considering regional cooperation, he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will alternate the presidency of the meetings.

The multilateral talks will focus on issues of peace, stability, development, environmental protection, disarmament, and economic development. Each foreign minister will be given 10 minutes to outline his country's stand on these issues.

Turkish Foreign Minister Meets Israeli Levi

TA2701162992 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1545 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow (A.A.)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived here today to participate in the multilateral talks for the Middle East peace conference.

Shortly after his arrival, Cetin met Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi, upon the request of the latter.

After the 45-minute talk, Cetin told journalists that the meeting he had with Levi was rather an acquaintance meeting and he had the opportunity to explain Turkey's stand towards the Middle Eastern question.

Asked by an Israeli journalist about the stand of Turkey towards a water sources meeting within the framework of multilateral talks, Cetin said, "water is only one of the problems needed to be resolved in the region."

"The most important issue is the lack of confidence among the region's countries. In our meeting tomorrow we shall review trust- building measures."

On the Turkish-Israeli talks, Cetin said that Turkey did not have any political problems with this country and the coolness in relations was stemmed from the policy being pursued by Israel.

Cetin stressed that by elevating its diplomatic relations with Israel to the embassy level, in spite of the fact that Israel had not withdrawn from the Arab land it had occupied, Turkey has shown that it tried to support the peace process in the Middle East.

On his part Israeli Foreign Minister Levi said that he was satisfied of the talk he had with Cetin.

He added that a technical team from Turkey was to visit Israel to hold talks on economic cooperation.

Officials of the Turkish delegation said that such a commission has already been set up between the two countries and this visit was limited to technical contacts.

Saudi Foreign Minister Comments on Syrian Absence

NC2701191692 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Interview with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal by an unidentified MBC correspondent in Moscow on 27 January—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Faysal] Each state must bear its responsibility for the peace process. Since this initiative began, Saudi Arabia has supported the efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian and Middle East issues. The Kingdom's participation in this conference comes within this context.

[Correspondent] Do you think the Syrian absence will affect the outcome of the talks?

[Al-Faysal] In any case, the Arab countries' efforts here express these countries' desire for peace. If any party to the direct conflict is absent, I regard it as a cry of warning, because there are attempts aimed at hindering the peace efforts and we hope to overcome these [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] Thank you, Your Highness.

Japanese Foreign Minister Asserts Role in Region

OW2801110892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From "Evening News" program]

[Text] Addressing the multinational Middle East talks today, Foreign Minister Watanabe made clear that the Japanese Government intends to play a vigorous role in promoting the peace process in the Middle East. At the multinational Middle East talks in Moscow, the foreign minister clearly announced that Japan would assume a new international role in resolving Middle East issues, stressing that Japan is resolved to do its part in international efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Explaining Japan's specific means to that end, the foreign minister cited Japan's cooperation in tackling environmental problems in the Middle East and indicated that Japan would cooperate with nations concerned in cleaning polluted areas in the Gulf of Aqaba, as well as help improve sewage treatment on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip. He also said Japan plans to send a survey team to the Middle East in March of this year. Addressing the talks, Foreign Minister Watanabe also said that Japan is willing to host a meeting of the steering committee of the multinational Middle East talks to keep the talks moving.

Algeria

Police Arrest Imams, FIS Leaders, Activists

LD2701223592 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2130 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] In Algeria 14 Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders have been put under lock and key, 20 imams have been taken in for questioning, and several dozen sympathizers have been arrested since last Friday. This is the toll given this evening by the FIS.

For his part, the Algerian interior minister reaffirms that the government will not give in to pressure from the FIS. The state will exercise with determination its prerogatives as the keeper of public order, he says.

Further on Arrests

LD2801093892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] In the past two days the national gendarmerie forces have remanded a number of people in custody on the charge of instigating disturbances of public order.

A member of the Dellys People's Council, which is run by the FIS, was apprehended and brought before the courts, which ordered him to be placed in protective custody.

According to the national gendarmerie, another person in Chelif said to be an FIS activist was also placed under protective custody at the request of the state public prosecutor.

The public prosecutor also ordered another citizen placed under protective custody on the charge of instigating disobedience at a mosque.

It was also learned that the security forces in Ain Baida, Oum el-Bouaghi wilaya, recently apprehended a member of the FIS guidance and call committee in the wilaya for exploiting a mosque for the furthering of political ends.

On the other hand, the national gendarmerie and the National People's Army have intensified their search for the perpetrator of a crime against a gendarmerie officer in Douerat, Blida wilaya, the day before yesterday.

FIS Weekly Denies Urging Army Disobedience

LD2601165192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1500 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The management of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] organ EL-MOUNKID denies having published an appeal calling on the Army to disobey. The statement has been issued by Abdelkader Hachani, the FIS interim executive leader. This denial is included in a communique of EL-MOUNKID which reached the French agency AFP.

I remind you that the last issue of the weekly EL-MOUNKID has been confiscated by the national gendarmerie services by order of the court. A hunt has been launched to find the officials responsible for the paper, as well as those of the other FIS organ, EL-FOURKAN.

Further Denial of Accusations

LD2601215692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The accusations made against the daily EL-MOUNKID, mouthpiece of the Islamic Salvation Front, over the publication of a communique addressed by the FIS to the National People's Army—in which its signatory, Abdelkader Hachani, president of the provisional National Executive Bureau, called on the Army to rebel—were denied today by an FIS official.

He also denied that issue 74 of EL-MOUNKID included provocatory topics aimed against state institutions, as announced by the national gendarmerie command. The official also stated that the seizure was not carried out on the basis of a judicial decision, as gendarmes allegedly presented no documents to the managers of the paper when they arrived at the Hussein Dey printing office. FIS lawyers are reportedly to apply to the Hussein Dey court for this decision to be annulled. [passage omitted]

Police Explain Newspaper's Confiscation

LD2601203392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The national gendarmerie command today confirmed that issue 74 of the EL-MOUNKID weekly, organ of the Islamic Salvation Front, was confiscated on the orders of the Hussein Dey court public prosecutor because it contained inflammatory articles against state institutions, and not because it contained the FIS communique against the Army.

A national gendarmerie command source said today that Chourfi Ahmed was killed yesterday by Hinnish Mohamed, an FIS executive bureau official, in Sidi Slimane municipality, Tipaza Province. Mohamed shot him with an automatic pistol after a heated political discussion between the two developed into a fight. The victim, it should be noted, is a National Liberation Front militant.

Interior Ministry Communique on Friday Prayers

LD2701220392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] In a communique published today the Ministry of the Interior and Local Communities calls on citizens to conduct Friday prayers inside the mosques of their districts, avoid occupying public roads, and reject all maneuvers from malicious elements tending to disturb public order.

The communique of the Ministry of the Interior emphasizes that for the Algerian Muslim people the day of

Friday represents a day of piety, union, and gathering inside the mosque, the house of God and a place of prayer and contemplation. In certain places, however, the communique continues, the mosque has been diverted from its noble mission by elements who have deliberately chosen to make it a place of discord, slander, and insult aimed at dissension [preceding word in Arabic—fitna] among Muslims.

FIS Seeks 'Dialogue' on Consultative Council

LD2701214792 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Following the third consecutive day of the extraordinary session of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee, Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui resigned this evening. He was one of the influential members of the Political Bureau. Another member of the Political Bureau, Abderrahmane Belayat, has asked for the suspension of the Constitution. The meeting should in principle end during the night.

In another development, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is reportedly ready to talk with the authorities now in power. This is what was reportedly declared to the agency AP by Rabah Kebir, the official FIS spokesman. On the line is Anne Dissez:

[Dissez] [passage omitted] Rabah Kebir has just declared that the FIS is well disposed toward a dialogue to find a political solution to the existing problems. He also said he was surprised that the Higher State Council has not contacted his party concerning possible discussions on the composition of the Consultative Council, a structure that should accompany the Higher State Council, whose composition and prerogatives have not yet been clearly defined.

In its communique No. 10 the FIS warned Algerians against putting any trust in the Higher State Council, then less than 24 hours later it is surprised not to have been contacted by the latter to discuss its participation in the Consultative Council. Quite clearly the FIS has not, in the turmoil of events, lost its habit of simultaneously saying two different things. [passage omitted]

Hachani Discusses FIS' Goals, Tactics

PM2201155692 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 20 Jan 92 p 9

[Interview with Abdelkader Hachani, official of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, by Gabriel Bertinetto in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpt] Algiers—[passage omitted] [Bertinetto] Mr. Hachani, last Friday at the Bab el-Oued Mosque we heard you urging the faithful and Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] members to be patient—a virtue preached by the Prophet. With what in mind, for what purpose?

[Hachani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I want, first, to thank the Italian people who so cherish the values of freedom. I believe that until President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation Algeria was on the whole oriented toward a situation of political stability, which is the foundation for consolidating freedom of all kinds. We are pursuing changes through the methods of persuasion and education. The basis of our working method is a program that we are presenting to the people in order to persuade them to adopt it. And we worked in this way until the elections, in which, as everyone knows, the Algerian people chose the Islamic option. So it saddens us to see that a small group has nullified the vote by violating the people's will. We can see that they have prompted in the country a climate of tension which they can exploit to remain in power. In response, the FIS is determined not to grant them any pretexts. Despite the provocations and the arrests that have affected even freely elected deputies—these are clear symptoms of dictatorial tendencies—we remain steadfast. We are waiting. And this is how we will thwart the conspiracy.

[Bertinetto] But there are many tendencies within the FIS, including some pressing for immediate action—the people who were reluctant to participate in the elections. How do you intend to keep control of the party while maintaining a moderate line?

[Hachani] The FIS has shown that it can lead its grass roots. This was shown after the cancelation of the vote, when the world expected a violent response, which did not occur. But the issue remains unresolved. When freedom is suppressed there is a danger of prompting a rising among the people.

[Bertinetto] Let us suppose that the authorities disband the FIS. According to persistent rumors, this possibility has been seriously considered recently. Would your underground resistance be peaceful or violent?

[Hachani] The idea of disbanding us is inconceivable. The great majority of citizens voted for us. To disband the FIS would be tantamount to disbanding the Algerian people. The people chose the FIS. This is where the FIS' role ends, because its program was espoused by the nation. If they were to ban our organization, the conflict would no longer be between the government and the FIS but between the government and the people.

[Bertinetto] Your blueprint envisages the establishment of an Islamic state. As you know, Mr. Hachani, Western democracies mistrust this concept, partly because they can see the concrete historical example of a republic based on Koranic laws in Iran, which led to the establishment of a tyrannical regime. How do you respond to such doubts and fears?

[Hachani] I do not want to make any assessments of the Iranian revolution except to say that what is happening in Algeria is quite different from the situation in Iran. The Algerian people's history is theirs alone and has nothing to do with any other nation's. If we are to consider the lessons of history, then we must go deeper. In Andalusia there was for several centuries an Islamic state in which all freedoms were guaranteed, and there

were no religious constraints. There are historical examples that show that Islam has guaranteed freedom of all kinds. But what is freedom? For some it means decolonization. For others it means sexual license. Islam prescribes freedom of religion. And I can tell you that if an Islamic state were to be established in Algeria, all freedoms would be guaranteed. Ulterior motives have been unjustly ascribed to the FIS. It has been condemned even before it has come to power. The fact that there has been no repression in those places where we won municipal elections last year is disregarded. Other parties' officials have retained their posts. They include even women who do not wear the veil.

[Bertinetto] By the way, when you do govern Algeria, will you force women to wear chadors?

[Hachani] Our line of conduct is aimed at education. We have a very clear program which we want to achieve through education and persuasion. Algerian women are Muslims, yet they do not like to wear the veil, because they are victims of the government and the influence exerted by the European media, which instill a fear of the Islamic system in their hearts. But women enjoy all rights under Islam. If women worldwide were thoroughly acquainted with Islam and its values, they would reject any other system and embrace ours.

[Bertinetto] Islam, you say, means freedom. Does it also mean that if you do accede to power you will guarantee the existence and activity of other parties, whether Islamic or not?

[Hachani] Is communist propaganda permitted in the United States?

[Bertinetto] There is a very small Communist Party there.

[Hachani] Be that as it may, no less than 60 parties have been active here in Algeria in recent years. But the elections have reduced these to three. The others can be said to have disbanded. In any case, within the framework of our own values and our own civilization, several parties will be allowed to exist. Politics will be enriched by this.

[Bertinetto] The authorities have canceled the election, thereby denying you a virtually certain victory. This was a lamentable decision. Nevertheless, would you be willing to engage in a dialogue to restore a new democratic order in the country?

[Hachani] A new democratic order for what purpose? For another election, another success for us, and another cancelation? If they have already deprived us of an election victory, why should they not do the same again?

Further on FLN Central Committee Session

Mehri Contemplates Resignation

LD2701000292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Mocine Karim followed the proceedings of the emergency session of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee. He sent us this report:

[Begin Karim recording] Attracting attention toward the end of this evening's proceedings was Abdelhamid Mehri's comment on Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui's speech in which he proposed that the Central Committee clearly define its stand on two essential points: the stand on the political situation in the the country in the wake of the resignation of the Republic's president, and second, he called on the Central Committee to make a clear and open decision on the Front's current leadership, including the secretary general and the Political Bureau.

On this point, Mr. Mehri indicated that some Central Committee members had called on the current leadership to relinquish responsibility. He added: We decline to relinquish responsibility because that may be interpreted as evasion, for the leadership cannot go on shouldering responsibility at this moment and speaking on behalf of the Front. [sentence as heard]

This point by Mr. Mehri triggered debate inside and outside the hall and constituted the decisive turn in the proceedings of the emergency session, as it gave Central Committee members two choices: either preserve the current leadership and wait for the extraordinary conference due to be held in the next few months, which makes imperative the Central Committe's adherence to the political stand adopted by the leadership on the recent political developments in the country; or to change it. In other words, Mehri and the Political Bureau have to quit as the head and the leadership of the Front, which would perhaps change the political stand adopted by the Front toward the latest developments.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Mehri's interpellation came in response to Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui's speech, in which he included his support for the Political Bureau's stand on the setting up of the Higher State Council. Mr. Yahiaoui said: If we consent to the form of this council, what will in the future be our stand, as a leadership, on the Consultative Ccuncil due to be set up from nonrepresentative party leaderships? As for his latest proposal concerning the nomination of Mohamed Boudiaf for the presidential election on behalf of the Front, Mr. Yahiaoui rectified it and said: I did not suggest that the FLN make that nomination; it was the nationalist current, and I am thinking of the National Organization of War Veterans.

Proceedings at the Central Committee will resume tomorrow morning when judgement will be made about the issues raised, especially the issue of preserving or changing the leadership. It is also expected that the

Central Committee will approve a political resolution including the stand of the FLN on the situation which has reigned since President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation. [end recording]

Endorsement of National Events Expected

LD2701134192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpts] After three days of continuous meetings characterized by sharp exchanges, the extraordinary session of the National Liberation Front Central Committee is expected to end today with the endorsement of a political resolution on the situation in the country, prior to the convocation of an extraordinary FLN conference in the coming months.

Before the endorsement of this political resolution, let us acquaint ourselves with the work of the morning session. Here is a report from the radio delegation at the Palais des Nations. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] The general discussion on the third day remains restricted to whether the current FLN leadership should be retained or changed. It is worth recalling that Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri put the matter to the Central Committee last night, asking it to take a clear stand on the secretary general and the Political Bureau following the move by a group of Central Committee members to propose a resolution withdrawing confidence in the leadership.

It seems that the general view prevailing on the third day is that the current leadership should be retained until the extraordinary congress takes place.

According to information received on the sidelines of the meeting, this matter was settled during the meeting held last night by the Political Bureau. Another source emphasized to us that Mr. Mehri is sure and confident that the majority of Central Committee members support the stand of the Political Bureau on the recent national developments and that they insist on keeping the current leadership to avoid a split in the FLN.

On the other hand, it can be seen from the interventions of the third day that this majority prefers the FLN to join the opposition. This was rejected by the group which supports the idea of a leadership change, on the premise that its continuation in the current situation is meaningless. The leadership has used up all its cards and lost the legitimacy of its presence following the departure of the president and the inefficiency of the Constitution of 23 February 1989, the group believes.

The general discussion is continuing while waiting for a confirmation of this. It is expected to be wound up this evening with the passing of a political resolution which will very likely renew confidence in the current leadership and take a clear political stand on the events in the country since the president's resignation.

Mehri 'Likely' Not To Resign

LD2801114692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] We begin our newscast by contacting our colleagues at the Palais des Nations, where they are covering the extraordinary session of the FLN Central Committee:

[Unidentified correspondent] Just before the start of the Central Committee meeting this morning rumors are rife in the lobbies here that Abdelhamid Mehri will insist on tendering his resignation as FLN secretary general to the Central Committee.

But according to other rumors in the lobbies, about 150 members of the Central Committee have signed a draft resolution supporting Mehri's continuation at the head of the party.

The important thing is that it now seems that some members have made extensive efforts to persuade Mehri to remain in his post. These preliminary reports have been confirmed to us by many members of the Central Committee.

It is very likely—and we say this most reservedly—that Mehri will continue as FLN secretary general.

Naturally, the insistence of the majority of the Central Committee's members on Mehri's continuation as secretary general was due to one basic reason: namely, to avoid any change in the leadership in the present conditions because this, as some members say, does not serve the party's stability and continuity.

Political Bureau Announces Resignation

LD2801145992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] As a result of the disagreements over the renewal or withdrawal of confidence in the National Liberation Front Political Bureau, the proceedings of the extraordinary session of the FLN Central Committee, which began three days ago, were today extended for one more day. The proceedings were today resumed amid unconfirmed reports that the members of the Political Bureau have decided to resign collectively.

We have on the line Mohamed Chellouche live from the Palais des Nations:

[Chellouche] Yes, Mokhtar, my colleagues have just informed me that the proceedings of the session were concluded a few moments ago. Before discussing the results of this session, I will start from the beginning:

At the start of the session, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, speaking in a rather low voice, announced the collective resignation of the members of the Political Bureau. This announcement confirmed the reports which had been circulating, namely that the secretary general strongly insisted on making the decision to resign. This led many

members to take action and collect signatures for a petition which, we were told, was signed by about 150 members. The petition was an appeal against the resignation.

The issue of the petition was not raised inside the conference hall, but, judging by the nature of the debate which followed the secretary general's announcement, there was a clear indication of a desire to reject the collective resignation. Mr. Mehri's stand resulted in a series of interventions, most of which urged the postponement of procedural matters until the holding of the ordinary session of the Central Committee while keeping this session open and confining the discussions to one item, as had been laid down in the agenda.

The speakers also insisted on the need to take a clear stand on current political developments. A draft memorandum was prepared on the matter, but there was no debate on it.

The insistence of many speakers on the need to postpone the discussion of the collective resignation issue led Mr. Mehri to point out that there were people in the hall who had asked for the collective resignation of the Political Bureau and the secretary general and that he felt he had to meet this demand. He added that he had to refer this matter to the members of the Central Committee for a final decision.

Mr. Mehri took the floor again to clarify his position once more. This time he was adamant and said that he was resolute in his stand and that he was not prepared to stay at the head of the FLN as a party which remained a cover for the state and which received its orders from above. He added that he was not prepared to announce his support for the Higher State Council either.

Mr. Mehri also indicated that if the Central Committee members were not prepared to decide on the matter of the resignation, the matter would have to be postponed until the holding of the ordinary session in three weeks time. He also suggested that a national conference should be held at which people elected from the grass roots would be represented.

The discussions on the suggestion to postpone a decision continued until about 1300, when the proceedings were concluded. The suggestion was put to the vote and the majority voted in favor of keeping the session open and holding a national conference where all the issues would be examined and a decision made on the matter of the collective resignation.

As for the draft memorandum prepared at the session, this includes, among other things, two points that would have been at the center of the debate and the arguments had they been put forward for discussion. The first of these urged the Central Committee members to welcome the return of the militant Mohamed Boudiaf with the hope that his return will contribute to overcoming the difficulties and dangers facing the country. According to reports circulating earlier in the lobbies, some members saw the need to amend this point by formulating it as support for the Higher State Council and not as a welcome for Mr. Boudiaf personally.

The second point, which it is expected would have provoked a heated debate had it been put forward for discussion in the hall, concerns the constitutional issue and the democratic process. It says that the return to normal constitutional life and the democratic process, by enabling the people again to choose their representatives at all levels, remains a basic objective for the preservation of national unity and national independence and the development of society.

So, as I have already said, the proceedings of the extraordinary session of the FLN Central Committee were concluded at about 1300. There was a unanimous decision to keep the session open and to hold a national conference to examine all the problems raised here during this session and also to decide on the issue of the collective resignation of the members of the Political Bureau and the secretary general.

Political Parties' Reaction to Recent Events

Nation's Movement Supports Dialogue

LD2601121192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] In a statement, the Nation's Movement said that it considers the dialogue between the Higher State Council and the most prominent of the winning parties in the first round of the legislative elections to be the only way out of the country's moral crisis.

This crisis is represented by the breakdown of trust between the people and their leadership, according the Nation's statement.

War Veterans Support State Council

LD2601122192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] A political resolution passed by the National Council of War Veterans at the historic meeting of the council in the third wilayah said that members of the council bless all the patriotic efforts which have resulted in the formation of the Higher State Council under the leadership of the veteran Mohamed Boudiaf. They support all the political statements and stands expressed by the national secretariat of the war veterans organization, and they denounce every action or statement which hampers the efforts of the Higher State Council or expose the people and the homeland to domestic or external dangers, which would have dire consequences.

They also denounce any foreign interference in the domestic affairs of Algeria. They emphasize the need to return to the source of the glorious November Revolution and its principles, ideals, and objectives. They also appeal to all citizens, both men and women, to rally around the Higher State Council and to support it in its

national mission. They call on all war veterans and sons of martyrs to hold a spirit of determination and vigilance in this crucial period, to defend the constant values of the nation, and to bring the country out of the current dark crisis as a debt to the souls of the blessed martyrs.

FFS Leader Demands Civil Peace

LD2601113192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front [FFS], led by Ait Ahmed, says that civil peace must be maintained at all costs.

Mr. Ait Ahmed says he is willing to hold contacts in all directions and at any time between the FFS and anyone who wishes this. In an interview published by LE QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE this morning, he reiterates that there are other means of opposing the fundamentalist danger and that he will not accept that any institution should be imposed.

His slogan remains Neither a Police State Nor a Fundamentalist Republic.

Finally, Mr. Ait Ahmed speaks of media manipulation.

Rights League Denounces 'Crooked Democracy'

LD2501231292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The National Council of the League of Human Rights, which convened last Thursday in Algiers to consider the question of human rights and individual and collective freedoms in the light of the recent institutional developments in the homeland, today issued a statement bearing the signature of the league's chairman, Youcef Fethallah, saying that the impasse in which the country now finds itself because of some political practices is the result of crooked democracy.

Recalling some paragraphs of the statement issued by the executive committee on 16 January in which the league expressed its concern for the future of the constitutional institutions, which constitute the basis of the state of law, the statement reiterated the league's adherence to its basic role of defending and promoting human rights in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution of 24 February 1989.

Consultative Council for Universities Created

LD2801094792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The minister of universities announced yesterday that a national council for universities would be created shortly. It will be considered an independent consultative academic organization with the task of studying all the strategic issues affecting universities, and it will be made up of prominent figures in the universities and in the university student organizations.

This announcement was made yesterday following the conclusion of the meetings of the national committee for the programming and advancement of scientific research in universities, at the premises of the Ministry of Universities in the presence of [Minister of Universities] Djilali Eliabs.

Press Says Tehran Continues Campaign of 'Hatred'

LD2501111892 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, 25/01/92 (APS)—The Iranian state radio carried out on Thursday its campaign full of hatred and hysteria against Algeria, considering in a long commentary that [word indistinct] legitimate ways are now exhausted which makes violence an unescapable resort" in [word indistinct]. Observers also noted this escalation in outbidding tactics occurred on the eve of Friday's great prayer as if some political circles in Tehran wanted to guide the FIS (Islamic Salvation Front) path. Moreover, the Iranian official radio did not hesitate to resort to hotchpotch [as received] and allegations by reporting "the collegiate power in Algeria does no more hide its intention to resort to any means, including the closing of mosques" in Algeria. It is worth recalling that the Council of Ministers decided that from now on, mosques should no more be a place of partisan activities but of religion and prayer. It has never been a question of closing these mosques in Algeria but endeavouring that they will not be used by the FIS for political and propaganda ends. The carrying on of this rarely virulent press campaign [as received] on the part of the Iranian official media does nothing but fully amplify the freezing of diplomatic relations decided by Algiers, noted some sources in the Algerian capital.

Libya

Judge in Lockerbie Bombing Case Interviewed

NC2401213092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Jan 92 p 5

[Report on interview with counselor Ahmad al-Tahir al-Zawi, member of the Libyan Supreme Court and chairman of the three-man judicial committee in charge of investigating the Pan Am Lockerbie aircraft explosion, by 'Abd-al-Wahid 'Abd-al-Qadir in Tripoli; date not given]

[Text] The Libyan judge in charge of investigating the crash of Pan Am flight 103 has completed his interrogation of the two Libyans accused of placing a bomb in it. Two counselors from the Libyan Court of Appeals are also on the verge of completing their interrogation of the Libyans, whose names were mentioned in the U.S. and British indictments. The judicial committee is now waiting for replies from U.S., British, and French courts on these accusations, from Malta airport authorities, and from officials of the explosives factory in Switzerland mentioned in the indictment.

AL-AHRAM met with the Libyan judge in charge of the investigation to check on the progress and the Libyan judiciary's attitude on the case.

Counselor Ahmad al-Tahir al-Zawi, member of the Libyan Supreme Court and chairman of the three-man judicial committee in charge of the investigation, says he has completed his interrogation of the two individuals accused of bombing the plane, namely 39-year-old 'Abd-al-Basit 'Ali al-Miqrahi and 35-year-old al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah. In addition, the interrogation of other persons mentioned in the indictment is about to be completed.

Al-Zawi said that the indictment was sent to Libya by the British attorney general [as published] and the chief judge of the U.S. District of Columbia Court. The indictment accuses the two Libyans of placing an explosive device in a suitcase at Malta airport. The suitcase was then put on board a Maltese plane bound for Frankfurt, Germany. At Frankfurt airport the suitcase was transferred to the Pan Am plane, which departed for London's Heathrow Airport and then for New York. The plane, flight 103, exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on 21 December 1988, killing 270 persons, including 259 passengers and 11 persons from the Lockerbie area. The victims included people of 20 various nationalities. The indictment says that the suitcase contained a sophisticated Swiss-made detonator.

Counselor al-Zawi said that upon receiving the indictment, Libyan authorities took the necessary legal measures in accordance with applicable Libyan law. This law states that any Libyan accused of a crime outside the Jamahiriyah will be punished according to the Libyan penal code if he returns to Libya and has not been tried abroad.

Libyan authorities then asked the Libyan Supreme Court to nominate one of its counselors to supervise the case and fully investigate the incident. The Supreme Court's General Assembly met and nominated al-Zawi to investigate the incident.

Al-Zawi emphasized that upon assuming the investigation, he sent through official diplomatic channels two letters to the British attorney general and the chief judge of the U.S. District of Columbia Court asking them to choose one of the following options:

1. To provide him with official copies of the documents and investigations which led them to the indictment.

2. To give orders to the concerned authorities in their countries to enable the Libyan judge to peruse these investigations.

3. To set a date for the Libyan judge to meet with the investigating authorities in the United States and Britain to discuss the issue.

In his letter, the Libyan judge told the British attorney general and the U.S chief judge that he would meet them in a location of their choice. Al-Zawi emphasized that to date he has not received any reply.

Al-Zawi said that due to this lack of cooperation, investigations in accordance with Libyan law have been completed. He said he will continue investigating other people mentioned in the indictment.

He added that Article 296 of the Libyan penal code requires a minimum of 10 years in prison for anyone who carries out acts that endanger public safety with the intent to murder but which are not considered aggression against the state. If anyone dies as a result of the action, the penalty is death.

Al-Zawi noted that the investigation is proceeding in its technical and legal sense. He said that he has officially asked Malta to allow him to travel there to continue his investigations. The names of some Maltese nationals were mentioned in the indictment, and he considers it imperative to listen to what they have to say.

The Libyan judge said that he intends to submit a request to the Swiss Government to hear the testimony of the officials of the Swiss factory said to have manufactured the detonator.

He added that he will again ask the British authorities to allow him to travel to Lockerbie to see the material evidence. Because the plane went down over Lockerbie, it is necessary to hear the testimony of eyewitnesses and victims' families, to examine the wreckage of the plane and where it fell, and to check the data of the black box and the plane's log. This log explains the health and physical condition of the plane's captain before takeoff. It also explains the plane's condition and its flight suitability.

I asked him what he thought about not receiving any of the documentation he has requested from the West. Al-Zawi said: There is no justification for concealing this information. Providing this information does not damage anyone or anything. It would not stop them from taking any step they wanted to, including issuing a declaration of war against Libya. On the contrary, if I had the documents, we might be able to arrive at the truth, which is something that we all desire, as to who committed this regrettable act.

From a legal point of view, the investigation cannot be conducted properly unless we examine the black box and the log and hear testimony from eyewitnesses in Lockerbie, he added. We must also, he continued, examine the crash site, the wreckage, and the parts which were analyzed by investigators in Scotland, who said that explosive materials which led to the crash of the plane were found.

The Libyan judge said he is confident that the Scottish and U.S. investigators understand the importance of this from the legal point of view. They have nevertheless, he said, not provided us with any documentation whatsoever. We hope that they will allow us to travel to Britain

to carry out our investigation, he continued, adding: The passage of time might erase some of the evidence. The investigating authorities should have provided us with this evidence when the incident occurred, he said.

Libyan law does not allow Libyan citizens to be extradited to other countries to stand trial. In addition, no extradition treaties exist between Libya and the states which made the charges and which demanded extradition.

Al-Zawi said that in the event he does not receive the documents, data, and evidence he has asked for, he will continue his investigation in accordance with the information available to him. The final outcome of the investigation will depend on this information.

Libyan Judge al-Zawi is known for his integrity and fairness. He is a Libyan born in Egypt. He studied in Egypt and graduated from Cairo University's School of Law in 1956. He occupied several posts in the Libyan judicial structure before being appointed to the Libyan Supreme Court, the highest judicial authority in Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Panicking' Over Possible Retribution

PM2401113292 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Jan 92 p 11

[Bernard Morrot report: "How al-Qadhdhafi Will Defend Himself"]

[Text] A Libyan magistrate could be coming to France and Britain in the next few weeks. His mission: to conduct a new inquiry into the attacks against the Lockerbie Boeing (270 dead) and the UTA DC 10 (170 dead.) This most unexpected visit lies within the context of the huge operation launched by al-Qadhdhafi following Tuesday night's vote on Resolution 731: This document—initiated by the United States, Britain, and France—"earnestly" calls on Libya to cooperate "immediately" with the inquiries into the attacks. If it does not obey this ultimatum the three countries could demand at the end of February the introduction of a very grave sanction: an air embargo coupled with a halt to oil imports.

Al-Qadhdhafi is panicking. The "revolution leader" switched in the space of a few weeks from rage to confusion, and then to complete despondency. According to all observers, he is now convinced that the Americans are determined to topple him.

It was in this state of mind, ill suited to sound reflection, that he took a number of spectacular initiatives to try to halt the Western bulldozer. His aim was to seek allies around the world—by threat, if necessary—and to provide Libya with new political structures enabling it to join the camp of "acceptable" nations.

1. The Arab countries were the first to be canvassed. Al-Qadhdhafi's emissaries pointed out to President Mubarak that the return of some 2 million Egyptians working on Libyan projects—having been expelled from Iraq—would constitute an unprecedented economic disaster. The message seems to have been understood, because the Cairo authorities have recently become the keenest defenders of Libyan "independence."

The negotiations with President al-Asad are more subtle: The two senior Tripoli officials who visited Syria reminded their opposite numbers that Damascus is not exactly "whiter than white" when it comes to attacks on aircraft, and that an excessively neutral stand by them would prompt the Libyans to act accordingly.

The mission to Tehran seems to have been more successful: The two countries apparently agreed to "reactivate" the terrorist movements in the event of an embargo. As a quid pro quo, Tripoli would support Iran in the Bakhtiar affair. As for the Algerians, they apparently responded to the promise of major aid in the struggle against the fundamentalist movements, which al-Qadhdhafi fiercely opposes.

Report to the Foreign Ministry

The weak link in Libya's "charm operation" is oil. Tripoli has slashed prices, and numerous Arab countries belonging to OPEC—which meets 12 February—would welcome the demise of a partner that plays so dirty.

2. The East has not been forgotten: Libyan diplomats have firmly reminded their Russian counterparts that the Soviets helped a great deal in setting up their intelligence services, and that they possess certain information that could cause trouble for the new government. For its part, Bulgaria was urged to start a "major public trial" of the suspects identified by the West. Sources close to the White House have already described this plan as "farcical."

3. In Europe, al-Qadhdhafi is still playing the legal card. One senior Libyan magistrate, Ahmad al-Zawi, may soon be visiting France and Britain to gather information about the attacks on the UTA DC 10 and the Pan Am Boeing. His aim is to show that Judge Bruguiere's investigation and those of his U.S. and British counterparts were not conducted impartially. This counterinquiry would apparently be taken over by lawyers whose services have been secured by the Libyan regime at great cost. A very full report was sent to the French Foreign Ministry a few days ago. In this document the Libyan Government proposes that Judge Bruguiere come to question the accused whenever and however suits him. If the magistrate fails to take up this invitation, which has an ulterior motive, Tripoli intends to exploit his refusal at the United Nations.

A visit to France by Musa Kusa—number two at the Foreign Ministry and head of Tripoli's intelligence services—is no longer an impossibility: Unlike the four other Libyans subject to international arrest warrants in connection with the DC-10 case, he is merely named in an "investigation note" [note de recherche], which does not imply charges. At most, he risks surveillance, which

he hopes to exploit by explaining, when he leaves, that the French judiciary were bluffing when they cited him....

4. At home, the Libyan president is determined to make a big impact at the General People's Congress session, at which leaders traditionally carry out changes to the regime's structures. This meeting takes place at the beginning of February.

According to some sources, a major government reshuffle will be announced, the chief victim being Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari, who is guilty of having invested in a normalization of Libya's relations with the West.

Destabilization Operations

More far-reaching changes—such as the total abandonment of the socialist economy and the drafting of a new constitution—could also be announced.

Even more surprisingly, it is not impossible that opponents of al-Qadhdhafi who have long lived in exile will be invited to witness this "forcible" accession to democracy.

It remains to be seen how the United States responds to this omnidirectional charm (and threats) operation.

All indications are that it will not break its determination at all. President Bush, who is already involved in a preliminary campaign (the presidential elections are approaching), has been severely criticized for the weakness of his policy toward Saddam Husayn, the still triumphal loser of the Gulf war.

Some U.S. diplomats believe that the incumbent at the White House could counter these criticisms—and at the same time influence opinion polls in his favor—by toughening his policy toward the Baghdad dictator and, as additional proof of his steadfastness, by stepping up his pressure on al-Qadhdhafi.

Furthermore, the CIA has just received the go-ahead to seriously tackle the "Saddam case" by means of destabilization operations, and Kurds rebelling against Iraq have been supplied with extremely sophisticated weapons (including the famous "Stinger" missiles.)

The U.S. offensive against Libya should take place at the United Nations. It is difficult to see how in this context al-Qadhdhafi could escape an air and oil embargo, especially as his second-in-command, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, announced yesterday that his country would not hand over the two agents accused of involvement in the Pan Am Boeing attack. But Libya has changed its mind before....

Mauritania

More on Aftermath of Presidential Election

Election Results Detailed

LD2701144292 Rabat MAP in English 1306 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Nouakchott, Jan. 27 (MAP)—Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was re-elected president of Mauritania after he got 62.82 of votes during the first round of the multi-party presidentials, held last Friday, said spokesman for the PRDS [Republican, Democratic, and Social Party], Maaouiya's party.

Maaouiya's main opponent, Ahmed Ould Daddah, got 32.93 of votes while the two other candidates, Mustapha Ould Salek and Mohamed Ould Mah, gleaned respectively 2.87 and 2.38 of votes only. The percentage wrestled by Maaouiya give him the president's post without having to hold a second round.

Participation rate in the first multi-party presidentials in Mauritania was lower than expected. Only 46.44 pc [percent] of voters in capital city, Nouakchott, went to the polls.

The spokesman of the PRDS (Republican, Democrat and Social Party) said despite the weak participation rate, the democratic process made a big stride forward.

The results of the presidential elections were rejected by the other candidates who claimed there were electoral frauds. Demonstrations were staged in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou to protest the electoral irregularities.

Following the events, the Home Ministry decreed a curfew in the two cities from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

160 Opposition Members Arrested

LD2801091492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Following the bloody events of the past few days Mauritania regained complete tranquillity yesterday. But the Mauritanian authorities still seem worried about a possible new explosion of the situation.

After announcing the imposition of a curfew in the capital of Nouakchott and in Nouadhibou, the largest Mauritanian city, the Mauritanian Ministry of the Interior yesterday announced the suspension of political parties' freedoms of assembly and demonstration.

The Mauritanian police launched a campaign of arrests which affected 160 opposition people.

Security Forces To Enforce Political Ban

LD2701220492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] In Nouakchott, Mauritanian opposition parties announced today that Nouakchott authorities had today

banned freedom of gathering, demonstrations, and public meetings for all Mauritanian political parties. These measures were announced today by the director of political affairs and public liberties at the Mauritanian Foreign Ministry.

According to the same sources, instructions have been given to Mauritanian security forces to enforce a ban on party activities as part of the curfew which will be enforced tonight in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou.

Minister Discusses 26 Jan Disturbances

LD2701213892 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The minister of the interior, posts, and telecommunications has announced that groups of ill-intentioned people took advantage of the atmosphere of freedom and tolerance enjoyed by the country to undermine public security and order in Nouadhibou on Sunday, 26 January 1992.

These groups held an illegal meeting, thus defying a ban which had been announced by the local administrative authorities. These groups, which were armed with bladed weapons, attacked public security personnel who had requested these elements to halt this illegal meeting.

The minister of the interior, posts, and telecommunications indicated that while confronting these groups the security forces used tear gas grenades, which repulsed the attackers and restored security in the city. During these confrontations some injuries were regrettably sustained among the ranks of the security forces and the attackers. Two attackers [nearly] suffocated and were transported to the hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries.

The minister of the interior, posts, and telecommunications therefore announces that this kind of irresponsible behavior aimed at harming public security and the safety and security of citizens cannot be ignored under any circumstances.

Nouadhibou Situation Back to Normal

LD2701214892 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Life has returned to normal in Nouadhibou following yesterday's incidents. Our permanent correspondent there told us that things are going normally following the actions by elements hostile to democracy.

These elements spread chaos and harmed citizens' security and stability. Our permanent correspondent, our colleague Othmane Ould Louahbibib, added that these elements had tried to take advantage of the announcement of the partial results of the presidential elections to cause disturbances, spread chaos, and propagate false rumors to expose their antidemocratic intentions, which are hostile to the values of the Mauritanian people, who are reknowned for their brotherhood, unity, and maturity.

In our economic capital [Nouadhibou], citizens are unhappy and disappointed about yesterday's events. In statements made to our correspondent in Nouadhibou, the citizens denounced the barbaric behavior exhibited by the enemies of democracy in our economic capital.

Vanguard Party on Attacks Against Offices

LD2701223892 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The National Vanguard Party issued a statement this evening in which it said that the party's offices in Nouadhibou were last night subjected to extensive acts of arson and pillaging carried out by misguided elements.

The statement issued by the Vanguard Party in that regard stated that those elements did not stop at pillaging and setting fire to the Vanguard's offices and headquarters, noting that these elements physically attacked members of the party and violently struck them with iron bars and stones which caused injuries to scores of them.

The party urged all its activists to be watchful, patient, and not to retaliate against aggression, as a service to the public so that Mauritania would remain above all considerations.

The National Vanguard Party's statement emphasized that the party's understanding of the concept of democratic action made it believe in the judgment passed by the Mauritanian people at the ballot box, and it called on everyone to assume responsibility and to get ready again to construct Mauritania in an atmosphere of complete amity.

The regional commission of the Union of Planning for Construction has issued a statement in which it denounced the acts of sabotage carried out yesterday in Nouadhibou. These sought to destroy public services and the offices of some political parties, and the terrorizing of innocent citizens.

The statement urged all residents to be watchful and patient, to avoid provocations, and to protect amity, calm, and order in the country.

Ould Daddah Criticizes Election 'Manipulation'

AB2601221092 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Jan 92

[From the "Focus on Africa" program; telephone interview with Ahmed Ould Daddah, Union of Democratic Forces presidential candidate, in Nouakchott by correspondent Barnaby Phillips; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In yesterday's "Focus on Africa" we reported on the early results in Mauritania's presidential elections which showed incumbent President Ould Taya taking a clear lead. Now the results are all in. Sheick Becaye telexed this report from Nouakchott:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Final results in Mauritania's presidential elections give the present head of state, Colonel Ould Taya, 63 percent of the votes, while his principal opponent, Ould Daddah, took 33 percent of the votes. Two other candidates took four percent between them.

Ould Daddah has already rejected the legitimacy of the results, claiming that the government has made an industry out of cheating. He said that the turnout, now estimated at only 46 percent of the electorate, proves that the results did not reflect the will of the Mauritanian people. Ould Daddah has said he will ask the High Court of Justice to annul the results.

However, he said that he feared that would probably be a waste of time since he believed that the judiciary in Mauritania was not independent. He called on his supporters not to allow their frustrations to spill over into violence.

However, there was some trouble in Nouakchott yesterday. Police used tear gas to disperse crowds of Ould Daddah's supporters who had gathered outside his headquarters to await results. Twenty-five people were taken to hospital. Ould Daddah said that his supporters had been behaving peacefully, but the governor of Nouakchott claimed that they had been throwing stones at passers-by.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for President Taya's campaign said that Ould Daddah's rejection of the results proves that he was not a democrat and had no place in a democratic system. [end recording]

So the losing candidate, Ahmed Ould Daddah, is crying foul, alleging the ballot was fake. Barnaby Phillips rang Nouakchott and put it to Ould Daddah that European observers were saying that everyone had been cheating:

[Begin recording] [Daddah] You know, there are some observers from Europe. They just were in Nouakchott. I tried to take some of them through the country, but they had no time for that.

[Phillips] Are you not just complaining, Mr. Daddah, because you have lost? Why can you not just accept your defeat like a man?

[Daddah] But it is not a fair defeat. It is a manipulation, and I do not accept manipulations.

[Phillips] Is it not the case that black Africans in Mauritania may have voted for you but Arabs voted for Col. Taya, and there are more Arabs, therefore democratically Col. Taya had to win.

[Daddah] No, I do not think so. It is true black people were very, very happy with my candidacy because they saw in my candidacy a hope for justice, a hope for stability, and a hope for improvement of their situation. But at the same time, I benefited from the support of Arab citizens and this, in my opinion, is a new fact during this campaign. [end recording]

Candidate Salek Rejects Electoral Results

LD27012234492 Nouakchott Mauritanian ORTM Television in French 2130 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] It is worth noting that Mr. Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek, one of the presidential candidates, this afternoon gave a news conference in which he commented on the results of last Friday's vote.

On this occasion, he recalled the reasons that led him to run for office. He said that the opportunity to take part in the advent of the desired change could not be missed.

He also noted some shortcomings in the running of the campaign and the voting operations. Mr. Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek pointed, in particular, to what he termed the improvisation, notably in the operations to update electoral lists and the handing out of voters cards.

He also announced that he was therefore rejecting the results of the presidential elections and was demanding their cancelation.

Finally, he seized this opportunity to congratulate Mauritanians for the spirit of responsibility they showed during these elections.

Saddam Addresses Military Awards Ceremony

JN2501201192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said that in the lives of nations and peoples there are events that become implanted in history, thereby settling in people's consciousnesses as an eternal source of inspiration. The leader president said that the July Revolution is such an event. He said that for history, the nation, and the people this revolution will remain the mother of subsequent revolutions. Postrevolution developments are in some ways revolutions which have their own degrees, significance, and peaks. These were revolutions inside the soul and against something rejected in life, and they are a formula for looking forward.

This emerged when leader President Saddam Husayn today awarded medals of valor to a number of July revolutionaries and one of the fighters in the Mother of Battles.

His Excellency said: Had it not been for the July Revolution all the glory and progress in all domains would not have been attained. His excellency said: Genuine revolutionaries do not consider commitment a burden. Basically, this is because they would not have been revolutionaries had it not been for their commitment to the causes of their nation and people.

The leader president said: The enemies' basic intention was not to remove Iraq's material and cultural accomplishments but to push the Iraqis to powerlessness so that the Americans and their allies could control the fate of the Iraqis, thus turning them into dead persons while they are still alive.

The following is the text of the two decrees awarding medals of valor:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the bravery of the men who effectively and directly participated in the implementation of the glorious 17-30 July 1968 Revolution, because those whose names are listed below hold the Revolution Medal of the First Class, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

The following shall be granted two medals of valor:

1. Anwar 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad al-Hadithi.
2. Fawzi Dhakir al-'Ani.
3. Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan.

Competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the bravery of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamid Jasim al-Duri and his distinguished stand during the Mother of Battles, especially regarding his confrontation of the chapter of treason and treachery in defense of great Iraq, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

'Aba-al-'Aziz Hamid Jasim al-Duri shall be granted two medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

The medal-awarding ceremony was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office.

Further on Saddam Speech

JN2601202092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Report on medal-awarding ceremony and address by President Saddam Husayn—date and place not given]

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said that people under difficult circumstances look to the top of the chain and that the highest in that chain is Almighty God. His excellency said: The difference between men lies in the degree of faith. God be praised, the Iraqis are believers, and their link with the God of heavens and earth is alive. This emerged when leader President Saddam Husayn today awarded medals of valor to a number of fighters, commanders, and officers from the brave armed forces and the brave Presidential Guard, and to a number of officers who are entrusted with the task of protecting the leader president and who participated in fighting the enemies and their agents in the great battles of the Mother of Battles.

Leader President Saddam Husayn told his courageous officers that the most important pledge to the leader and the people is a faithful military, because people expect from the faithful military many good things in defense of the homeland and the people.

His excellency said: The military alone cannot carry out this duty, and an unorganized faith cannot also carry out the duty. Only the truly faithful, organized military can carry out the duty. His excellency added: Everyone who fought in al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles could not have his faith removed by the enemy. They are examples of our great grandfathers and are brave men who will be included in the register of the eternal message. The medal-awarding ceremony was attended by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office; and Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, chief of the Army staff.

The following are the texts of the presidential decrees:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the responsible, prominent position and the distinguished courage demonstrated by fighter Staff Major General Fanar Zibin Hasan in defending the nation's honor and strength and for his heroic confrontation of the chapter of treachery and treason in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, when he was the director of the special security organ, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

Fighter Staff Maj. Gen. Fanar Zibin Hasan shall be granted three medals of valor.

The defense minister shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage demonstrated by fighter Staff Brigadier Gen. Latif Mahall Humud in defending the nation's honor and strength in the Mother of Battles as well as great Iraq, and in accordance with the provisions of the Amended Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

Fighter Brig. Gen. Latif Mahall Humud shall be granted three medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage demonstrated by fighter Air Force Brig. Gen. Jabbar Rajab Haddushi in defending the nation's honor and strength in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

Air Force Brig. Gen. Jabbar Rajab Haddushi shall be granted five medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage demonstrated by the following fighters, commanders, and officers in defending the nation's honor and strength in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

1. Each of the following fighters, commanders, and officers shall be granted two medals of valor: Fighter Staff Maj. Gen. Amir Jasim Hammu, fighter Staff Maj. Gen. Sa'id Shukr Sa'id Shahin, fighter Air Force Staff Maj. Gen. 'Ali Raji 'Ali, fighter Air Force Staff Maj. Gen. Kamal 'Abd-al-Sattar 'Abd-al- Fattah, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. 'Aziz Ja'far Salman, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Zubayr Jasim 'Uthman, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Sabah Matrud Shuwayya, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Majid Shallal al-Dharb, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Ra'd 'Abd-al-Rahim Karim, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Zuhayr Talib 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Naqib, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Ayyub Mahdi Salih, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim, fighter Air Force Staff Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-Qadir Khadr al-Haj Ahmad, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Sattar Jabbar Habib, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Mudar Ahmad 'Abid Yasin, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Sa'dun Yunis Muhammad, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Jasim Muhammad Mahmud, fighter Naval Force Staff Brig. Gen. Muhammad Ahmad Hasan, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Ya'mur Zaki Yahya, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Hasan Husayn 'Ali, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Qays Salih Muhammad, fighter Air Force Staff Brig. Gen. 'Awf 'Abd-al-Rahman, fighter Air Force Staff Brig. Gen. Mukhallad 'Abd-al-Karim, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Gurji Hasan 'Alwan, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Salah Isma'il Nasir, the hero of al-Qadisiyah, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Mahir Mustafa 'Ali 'Isa, fighter Staff Brig. Gen. 'Adnan Muhammad Jasim, fighter Staff Colonel Muhammad Najm 'Abdallah, fighter Col. Sabah Ahmad Khalaf, fighter Staff Col. 'Ala' Rashad Wajih, fighter Staff Col. 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Abdallah Muhammad, fighter Staff Col. 'Abd-al-Karim Ahmad Mahdi, fighter Staff Col. Muhammd Ghaydan 'Alwan, fighter Staff Col. Khalid Ghallab Buraydi', fighter Staff Col. Tha'id Nuri Tawfiq, fighter Staff Col. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Mahmud Kazim, fighter Staff Col. Khalid Hasan 'Ali, fighter Staff Col. Jalal 'Ali Hassun, fighter Staff Col. Kamil Hamid Barbuti, fighter Staff Col. Salih Muhammad Ibrahim, fighter Col. 'Abd-al-Zahrah Nayif 'Ali, fighter Col. Ifrayn Khadr Dawud, fighter Staff Lietenant Col. 'Abdallah Rashid 'Abd.

2. Lieutenant Col. Ra'd 'Abd-al-Karim Mahmud shall be granted four medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage demonstrated by the following fighter officers in defending the nation's honor and strength in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals Law. No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

Each of the following fighter officers shall be granted two medals of valor: Fighter First Lieutenant Jamal Mustafa 'Abdallah, fighter 1st Lt. Khalid Najm 'Abdallah, fighter Lt. Sa'd 'Abd-al-'Aziz Haddushi, fighter Lt. 'Adday 'Umar Sulayman, fighter Lt. Sabah Sabir Ibrahim.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Government Removes Arms From Baghdad Army Camps

NC2401171492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] On 14 January the regime removed most weapons stored in Army camps in Baghdad, keeping only some light weapons which are used for sentry duty.

General Reportedly Arrested for 'Negligence'

NC2501173592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Criminal [Defense Minister] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid is continuing his intimidation and terrorist tactics against Army officers, keeping them under surveillance and liable to detention.

The reckless defense minister recently detained Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Arbil, who is from Ninawa Governorate, after charging him with a lack of discipline and negligence in carrying out military orders.

SANA: Government Forces in South 'Retreating'

JN2401161692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1525 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, 24 Jan (SANA)—An Iraqi commander in the marshland areas of southern Iraq has expressed the conviction that the forces of the Iraqi regime have lost the reins of initiative in the al-Basrah and al-'Amarah areas following a recent major battle which resulted in heavy casualties among the regime's forces and in the failure of the major offensive they had planned.

The field commander, who requested anonymity, said that the popular opposition forces control the southern areas at night. Meanwhile, the Iraqi regime forces are retreating as a result of increasing defections and the number of those joining the opposition.

The field commander indicated that the basic objective of the opposition action is to topple the regime, a regime which has caused destruction for Iraq and imposed on it the most deplorable types of suffering, including death by starvation.

The Iraqi commander believes that there is room for everyone at the next stage. This will require the participation of all Iraqi people in efforts to reconstruct their homeland and build a new life following the removal of the regime of tyranny and crime.

Kurds' Talabani Predicts Saddam's Ouster

NC2701132692 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By Antoine Lazerges]

[Text] Kala Shualan, Iraq, Jan 27 (AFP)—Imminent democratic changes in the Kurdish part of Iraq would lead the rest of the country to get rid of Saddam Husayn's dictatorship, Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani forecast in his snowbound mountain headquarters here.

He spoke as followers gathered at the weekend for the first general congress of his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan since the movement's creation in 1975. Delegates are meeting for a week at nearby al-Sulaymaniyah in preparation for elections in April to a Kurdish national assembly.

The congress would decide his party's position, and in his report being presented on Tuesday he would "affirm our right for self-determination within the framework of the Iraqi democratic republic," Talabani said. It was not a question of "separatism," but of full autonomy or federalism, he explained.

He forecast that the changes would make Kurdistan "a symbol of democracy which will inspire all Iraqi people and encourage them to struggle for democracy, human rights and ending dictatorship in Baghdad".

His movement was at a crossroads, "One leading to Baghdad and the other to Kurdistan. It (the congress) will decide if we will accept the return of dictatorship to Iraqi Kurdistan or if we prefer to have a democratic administration elected by the people."

The elections set for April 3, regarded by Talabani as the Kurds' first free poll, have been set up by a front of eight Kurdish parties. In addition to electing a national assembly, voters will also be choosing the "leader of Kurdistan".

The two candidates are Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Democratic Party, the other major Kurdish movement. Choosing between them will in effect amount to a referendum for or against continuing autonomy negotiations with the Iraqi authorities.

Talabani insisted Kurds had the morale and the means to win autonomy by force, having recovered from the failure of last year's attempted insurrection and subsequent exodus. If his movement won a majority in the Kurdish parliament, it would elect an executive council to govern the country and promote reconstruction, he said.

Barzani for his part is on record as being ready to sign a deal with Baghdad "to end the suffering of the Kurds who lost hope" after last year's setbacks.

UN Envoy Discusses Oil Sales, War Reparations

JN2501095592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 92 pp 1, 18

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq in Amman]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's representative to the United Nations, has expressed hope that an agreement with the United Nations concerning the export of Iraqi oil will be reached and that all the obstacles that emerged during the first round of talks will be removed.

Dr. al-Anbari arrived in Amman yesterday en route to New York after holding consultations with the Iraqi Government. He told AL-DUSTUR: "We recently held the first round of talks in Vienna, and another round will be held in Vienna in February. Some progress was made. The United Nations understood our positions and decided to remove some of the obstacles, which allowed for some understanding. We hope that the next round will help boost this initial understanding and, consequently, pave the way for a third round during which all oil issues can be discussed. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Asked whether Iraq has committed itself to the export of $1.6 billion worth of oil, as decided by the United Nations, for humanitarian purposes, Dr. al-Anbari said: "We have not committed ourselves to the UN-set figure. The Security Council resolution set the $1.6-billion limit, but we will discuss this. We believe that this ceiling should be reconsidered because we need a lot of foodstuffs and other human requirements, not to mention what we need for the reconstruction of Iraq." He added: "Oil is not like any other commodity; we are dealing with international refineries, and this unfair resolution should be reconsidered."

He added: We need further negotiations and understanding. We have begun to sense some favorable reaction and to see that some people are listening carefully to our logical argument.

Asked whether oil will be exported through Turkey or Saudi Arabia, and whether there is a plan to build an oil pipeline across Jordan to export Iraqi oil via al-'Aqabah port, Dr. al-Anbari answered: "We agreed with the United Nations to export oil from any exit we choose. This depends on the choice of the buyers." He added: "A country like Japan cannot import oil except through the Gulf, and this applies to the Southeast Asian countries as well. This means Iraqi oil to these countries should be exported through Mina' al-Bakr."

Dr. al-Anbari went on to say: "The issue is economic, not political."

As for possible Iraqi compensation for those harmed by the Gulf war, Dr. al-Anbari said: "Concerning compensation, Iraq should be compensated because it was hurt by the war. However, and despite everything, we agreed to pay compensation as stipulated by international law and Security Council Resolution 687. Due to Iraq's circumstances and conditions, however, we asked for a three-to five-year grace period so as to help reconstruct Iraq in all fields. If this proves unattainable, we believe that 30 percent [of oil revenues] should be earmarked for this purpose."

Oil Minister Says OPEC Cuts 'Minimal'

JN2501084292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0729 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has stated that the modest reduction in oil production recently announced by some OPEC countries will not solve the acute drop in world oil prices.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH today, the oil minister said that the announcement by some OPEC countries that they have reduced their production ceilings will not solve the acute drop in oil prices because the reductions announced are minimal when compared to the reductions that should have been made, particularly considering that fact that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates alone produce more than 4.25 million barrels per day [BPD].

Al-Hiti explained that other OPEC countries continue to produce more than their daily quotas. These countries include Venezuela which produces 400,000 BPD above its quota; Nigeria, which produces 264,000 BPD; Iran, which produces 210,000 BPD; Indonesia, which produces 126,000 BPD; Gabon, which produces 90,000 BPD; Ecuador, which produces 24,000 BPD; and Qatar, which produces 24,000 BPD.

The oil minister said that the steps taken by some oil-producing countries to reduce their production are propaganda measures that will not bring about tangible results with respect to checking the drop in oil prices. This is because these measures have come a bit late considering that there is an oil glut on the market and because a lot of oil has been stockpiled.

Al-Hiti said that as an oil-producing country and an active member of OPEC, Iraq had previously recommended reducing the oil-production ceiling given that there used to be a sizable surplus of 2.6 to 2.9 million BPD.

Al-Hiti explained that available information indicates that before the announcement of the recent reduction, the OPEC countries' actual oil production totaled 24.2 billion BPD, and that thiz represents a surplus of 2.5 million BPD over the production ceiling that had been previously set.

Report Alleges Bush Role in Anti-Saddam Efforts

NC2501173092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Our sources report that George Bush is planning to directly interfere in our domestic affairs under the

pretext of bringing down the 'Aflaqite regime. Bush recently said that a special team, called the committee of representatives, will monitor the situation in our country. This committee is composed of officials and advisers working at the White House, the Defense Department, the State Department, the NSC [National Security Council], the CIA, and the Defense Department intelligence services.

A spokesman for the committee said that it will raise the Iraqi issue at another time in the coming months. Our sources outside Iraq indicate that the committee has been entrusted with three tasks:

1. To find new methods of pressuring the defeated Saddam.

2. [Words indistinct] the potential here and coordinate with them in order to serve U.S. interests.

3. To find direct channels of contact with some of Saddam's military and civilian opponents.

It is worth noting that Bush wants to isolate our people and cut them off from their sources of support in neighboring Arab and Islamic countries as part of what he calls the policy of neutralizing the sides concerned.

Paper Says U.S. To Blame for Mideast Instability

JN2501092192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH holds the United States responsible for regional instability by its insistence on pursuing a line of persistent enmity toward the Arab nation, its interests, and legitimate rights.

In an article published today commenting on statements made by the chief of the CIA before the U.S. Senate's Military Affairs Committee, to the effect that the Middle East region is still unstable, AL-THAWRAH says: "The stability" spoken of by the CIA chief is attainable only by tightening the U.S. grip on the region in a manner that ensures U.S. control over Arab oil wells, the complete liquidation of the Palestine question, and the capitulation of the Arab nation.

The paper indicates that the United States continues its savage and ferocious aggression against Iraq, an aggression that is unprecedented in history. Moreover, the paper notes, the United States is determined to make the Arabs capitulate and to obstruct any Arab endeavor to advance in the scientific and technological fields, with a view to ensuring the Zionists' strategic edge over the Arab nation.

The paper notes that the United States has been making clearly arrogant moves to achieve its objectives and ensure the interests of Israel, "its spoiled protege," ever since the international balance of power tilted in its favor.

The paper emphasizes that the Arab nation has strong convictions that the U.S. efforts to achieve a settlement, or a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question, are devoid of any political credibility. The most that these efforts could produce, the paper notes, would be a mere humiliating settlement modeled in form and substance on the ill-famed Camp David accords.

The paper asserts that the talk of "disturbances" or "reprisals" targeting the United States are nothing more than exposed attempts to cover up for and justify the U.S. military presence in the region, and indeed, the direct U.S. occupation of some Gulf states.

Search Team Allegedly Discovers Mass Graves

JN2501193392 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Jan 92 p 1

[By Faruq Hamdi]

[Text] Southern desert, Safwan—AL-JUMHURIYAH's search team in the southern region has discovered a mass grave containing the remains of a number of heroic Iraqi soldiers buried alive with their weapons by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic forces on an Iraqi farm in Safwan, 1,500 meters to the south of al-'Abdali and 3,500 meters to the south of the center of a city in Safwan subdistrict.

During his tour with Salim 'Abd-al-Karim, the official in charge of the Safwan Camp of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, AL-JUMHURIYAH's correspondent for the southern region saw the bodies of a group of Iraqi fighters buried in a hole three by three meters in size. At the top of the hole he saw a number of wool blankets, white nylon sheets, and traces of (cables), tires, and shovels which covered the Iraqi fighters indiscriminately.

At the farm opposite the grave, AL-JUMHURIYAH met with the farmer Hasan Hamdan, who emphasized that he had seen the ugly crime with his own eyes on the afternoon of one of the days of the treacherous 30-state aggression against great Iraq. He said that a foreign force, apparently American, led a number of Iraqi fighters with their eyes blindfolded and their hands tied behind their backs, threw them into a prepared trench near the farm, and covered them with some blankets and nylon sheets, while shovels were used to bury them alive along with their weapons and clothing despite their appeals and calls, which soon could not be heard under the dirt.

Salim 'Abd-al-Karim, the official in charge of the camp of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said that teams searching for mass graves have discovered scores of these in which the U.S. forces buried alive Iraqi fighter and citizens. A number of the residents of Safwan subdistrict were also buried. He added that some mass graves were discovered in residential areas and gardens. The remains of Iraqi soldiers were discovered in a garden of a resident of Safwan subdistrict. They were found in a standing position, along with their weapons.

RCC Decision Cancels Powers Given to Governors

JN2501160292 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Text] Baghdad—AL-JUMHURIYAH—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has annulled the powers granted to governors in accordance with paragraph 1 of RCC Decision No. 54 issued on 4 March 1991. The RCC authorized the interior minister to have these powers. RCC Decision No. 7 issued on 7 January 1992 stipulates that the interior minister can authorize the governors to possess some of the powers included in Decision No. 54 when he deems it necessary.

RCC Decision No. 54 was issued in light of the security conditions created by the cowardly criminal aggression against Iraq. In accordance with that decision, the governors were given large-scale powers in their governorates, including the announcement of a state of emergency and curfew. Also in accordance with the decision, the official in charge of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the governorate acts for the the governor in case he is absent for any reason. The party official is authorized the same powers in addition to the other powers of the governor stipulated by valid laws. The RCC decision also provides that the governor or the acting governor, the Ba'th Party official, opens an operations center for the government in the capital, any other place in the governorate, and assigns the necessary people to the operations center.

Food, Flour Rationing Arrangements Made

JN2601182892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Trade Ministry has urged food and flour agents to report to the cutting and preparation centers of the state company for the foodstuffs trade and the state company for processing grains in Baghdad and other governorates to receive citizens' shares of food and flour for August, as of 28 February 1992 [as heard].

The citizens will receive their shares in accordance with the new ration cards. We appeal to the honorable citizens to report to supply centers to receive their new cards.

Manufacture of Sweets Ordered Halted

JN2601173392 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Jan 92 p 8

[By Salah al-'Abd in Baghdad]

[Text] The Trade Ministry has called on confectionery and pastry factories and shops to abide by its instructions to stop making any kind of candy or pastries.

A Trade Ministry source said that many inspection teams have been formed to follow up on the implementation of the instructions and to report contraveners so that legal measures can be taken against them. The source explained that the production of candy and pastries requires large quantities of sugar, fat, and flour, which would cause severe shortages of these materials.

Ramadan Receives Libyan Delegation

JN2601172092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1322 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has emphasized that serious field work is a counteroffensive aimed at aborting the aggressors' hostile, conspiratorial plan.

During his meeting today with a Libyan labor delegation headed by Nuri al-Shahawi, member of the executive bureau of the Libyan professionals union, Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the Iraqis, led by President Saddam Husayn, will continue to adhere to their principles and will defend them, regardless of the oppressors' grudge.

The vice president pointed out that the evil allies' ambitions in the region and their conspiracy against its peoples are no longer a secret.

The Libyan labor delegation affirmed that the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the evildoers is in harmony with the good Iraqi's strong will, enlightened minds, strong arms, and cultural and scientific heritage.

The Libyan delegation also emphasized that the Arab nation will not be conquered by the tyrants and the humiliated Arab rulers, who have accepted disgrace and subservience.

The delegation added that the Mother of Battles has created a large-scale Arab awakening which made the Arabs know that they derive their strength from the Iraqis' victories and their challenge to the largest aggression ever led by the United States.

Assembly Speaker Sends Turkish Counterpart Letter

TA2401212492 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih has sent a letter to Turkish Grand National Assembly Speaker Husamettin Cindoruk concerning the normalization of relations between the two countries. The letter was delivered to Cindoruk by Prosperity Party Group Chairman Sevket Kazan, who participated in a private meeting in Baghdad.

Cindoruk said that the establishment of relations between the parliaments of the two countries depends upon the decision of the Assembly Chairmanship Council and added that the letter will be included on the agenda of the first council meeting to be held.

Officials 'Enraged' by Leak on Secret U.S. Visit

TA2801122892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 92 p C2

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The heads of the Finance Ministry are enraged by the fact that a report has been published saying that an economic delegation is about to leave for the United States to attempt to convince the Washington congressmen to approve Israel's request for loan guarantees.

According to Finance Ministry sources, an agreement was reached among the persons scheduled to take part in the trip that their U.S. visit was to be kept secret so as not to embarrass Washington administration officials. The trip was initiated by Amnon Neubach, Israel's economic attache in Washington, during his visit to Israel last month.

It was agreed that the delegation would keep a low profile, and members of the delegation were supposed to leave not as an organized group but as individuals or in twos. Among the members of the delegation are Dov Lautman, chairman of Israel's Manufacturers' Association; Dani Gillerman, president of the Union of Chambers of Commerce; Elron Electronics President 'Uziya Galil; Bank Hapo'alim Chairman Eytan Berglass; Klal Chairman Avi Olshansky; and Teva Pharmaceuticals Director General Eli Hurvitz.

Israel's Ambassador Zalman Shoval and Finance Ministry Director General Shalom Zinger attended the secret meeting last month in which it was decided to send the delegation to the United States.

Shamir Should Hold 'Quiet Negotiations'

TA2701160292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Jan 92 p 5

[Commentary by Tzvi Gilat: "The Prime Minister Can Play for Time, Meanwhile Paving and Building"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir almost certainly sighed with relief when he learned of the U.S. proposal on the loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants. In principle, Shamir acknowledges the financier's right to dictate, and he has ample experience in making commitments to the United States.

Shamir was prime minister in 1985 when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz granted Israel special aid in the sum of $1.5 billion. In that instance, the Israeli Government agreed not to use aid funds beyond the Green Line; in addition, it took steps to reduce inflation, complying with a U.S. demand. Last year, too, Minister David Levi made a similar commitment with Shamir's approval.

Right now, the question that needs to be elucidated is the one brought to the fore by Minister Ari'el Sharon: Is Israel merely requested to make a direct commitment on how money will be used, or are the guarantees contingent on additional terms? In other words: Do the U.S. conditions represent a lever for future political pressure? Will not the entire political process hinge on these conditions?

The U.S. license to complete the housing starts—and the number of these is enormous—without stating publicly that settlement will be frozen allows Shamir to conduct an election campaign in parallel with massive construction that will continue for at least a year. He will thereby prove to the right wing that it does not matter what the media is saying (it is 90 percent gossip anyway) [allusion to Shamir's observation]; as they will see, roads will be paved, houses put up, campers hauled. This is what Shamir would like: to see some of the cash, not to stop building, to defer the confrontation until after his and Bush's elections. It suits Bush, too, but a confrontation is bound to take place, because the U.S. and the Israeli Government positions are totally irreconcilable.

And yet, although the Americans have not demanded a freeze, contentious statements like the one that "no power in the world will stop construction" make them see red. If Shamir wants to see results, he should start quiet negotiations and display a desire to make progress in the autonomy talks in Washington next month. The remarks of his ministers—mainly those from the Likud's right wing—are making his task difficult. He will have to find a way to curb at least the flaunting of the construction, if not the construction itself for the time being, while making judicious use of time.

Arens: Palestinians 'Not Missed' at Talks

TA2801120092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says the Palestinians will not be missed at the multilateral talks. Arens added that Israel is not thinking at present of withdrawing from south Lebanon. Jack Katzenell reports.

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Defense Minister Arens appeared this morning before the international Jewish media conference in Jerusalem. I asked him if Israel is pleased or disappointed over the absence of the Palestinian delegation from the multilateral talks in Moscow.

[Arens] I think that they will not be missed. The multinational conference is a conference between governments, dealing with problems of the region, problems in the Middle East. The Palestinians, as everybody knows, are not a government and will not be a government, and so I think that the negotiations can take place in Moscow without any difficulty at all although they are not present.

[Katzenell] Commenting on the latest violence in south Lebanon, Arens was asked under what conditions Israel would be prepared to withdraw from the security zone.

[Arens] We are at the moment not thinking of withdrawing. As you see, we have continuous terrorist

activity, and an Israeli withdrawal would endanger the cities and villages of the northern part of Israel.

[Katzenell] Israel has no designs on Lebanese territory, the defense minister insisted, but under present conditions, withdrawal is out of the question. [end recording]

Israel 'Operating Against' Arms Suppliers to Iran

TA2801054992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, has revealed that Israel is operating against arms suppliers and companies which aided Iraq and which are now providing arms to Iran. Ben-Elisar said the State of Israel cannot stand by idly to the new threat posed by what he termed the death merchants. Speaking to a Qol Yisra'el reporter, Ben-Elisar added: Israel is concerned that Iran is following the path of what the world witnessed in Iraq.

Moledet Submits No-Confidence; Tehiya To Follow

TA2701211592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Moledet submitted tonight a motion of no confidence in the government over what it terms the damaging policy on the issue of U.S. guarantees and the absorption of immigrants. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Moledet says the problem lies in dictates which turn us into more than a protectorate; it makes us a banana republic. The Jewish people, according to Moledet, is capable of raising the sums necessary for the great transfer [preceding word in English] of Soviet Jews to Israel without resorting to the U.S. guarantees.

Tehiya has announced that it will submit a motion of no confidence in the government over the same issue.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motions

TA2701194692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpts] With a majority of 55 against 49 and five abstentions, the Knesset plenum rejected a short while ago the motions of no confidence submitted by five opposition factions. Our correspondent says that throughout the evening, heavy pressure was exerted on right-wing parties to refrain from bringing about the government's downfall. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports from the Knesset:

[Passage omitted] The five abstentions included Tehiya and Moledet, as well as Knesset Member Mizrahi [of Ge'ulat Yisra'el] who was not at the plenum.

Although the background for the no-confidence motions was economic—poverty, ailing economy, and social problems—the opposition's arguments stressed the political controversy.

The right-wing parties did not lend a hand in toppling the government mainly because they had been promised that the elections would be brought forward, which was their original objective. [passage omitted]

Jewish Agency Treasurer: Settlements 'Unproductive'

TA2701185192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Jewish Agency Treasurer Me'ir Shitrit, a member of the Likud, said tonight that he is in favor of accepting the U.S. demand to freeze the new housing starts in settlements in exchange for loan guarantees. In an interview with our correspondent Tzvi Lidar, Shitrit said that the establishment of small and ailing new settlements is unproductive anyway, and he believes that his party's policy will be implemented through the expansion and reinforcement of the existing settlements.

Me'ir Shitrit suggested that the government organize also for the possibility that the guarantees will not be forthcoming, saying that the money can be raised from diaspora Jews and from the sale of government-owned companies, mainly from the sale of banks. [passage omitted]

Official Denies 200 Units Planned for Silwan

TA2601140292 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Text] Elino'ar Bersky, head of Jerusalem Municipality's Planning Department, has said that the declarations of Jewish settlers in Silwan that 200 housing units will soon be built on the eastern slope facing Wadi al-Qidron are totally unfounded. According to her, building on the site is forbidden due to the archaeological findings there, according to strict orders dating from the time of the British Mandate, and this concept has not been altered. Moreover, she said, neither have master plans for the site been presented.

Meanwhile, the renovation of existing houses continues in Silwan. The local Jerusalem paper YERUSHALAYIM reports that today only 12 people, mostly young couples, remain of the 100 settlers who occupied seven houses in the village three months ago.

West Bank Residents Appeal Deportation Decision

TA2601132692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Four Palestinian residents of Judaea and Samaria have petitioned to the courts against the intention to deport them. They say their cause should be considered separately from that of candidates for expulsion from the Gaza Strip. They also asked the court to specify to where they will be deported, for how long, and how their families are to make a livelihood during their absence.

Bomb Explodes in Hebron; Injured Teenager Arrested

NC2701150392 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Jan 27 (AFP) - A bomb exploded at a religious site Monday in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron and soldiers later arrested a Palestinian teenager who reportedly lost a hand.

The bomb went off at dawn at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, injuring an 18-year-old Palestinian who was arrested as a suspect, military authorities said.

After hearing a loud explosion, soldiers at a nearby observation post ran to the site where they found traces of blood and two other bombs, which they defused.

During a search of the city's Ali Hospital, they arrested a suspect who had suffered a serious hand injury. A Palestinian source said he had had his hand amputated. [passage omitted]

'Understanding' With Russia on Nuclear Plant

TA2701134792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Professor Yuval Ne'eman today called on the government to keep tabs through its intelligence apparatus on nuclear arms activities of Algiers and Iran. He said that if it is believed that something should be done about it, he is urging the government to do it. At the same time he believes that talk of a nuclear era in the Middle East is exaggerated.

Speaking to our correspondent Shmu'el Tal, Prof. Ne'eman said that the reactor Syria ordered in the PRC and has not yet received is not more dangerous than a dentist's x-ray machine, as he put it.

Upon his resignation from the government, former Minister Ne'eman added that he has reached an understanding with the Russians concerning the construction of a nuclear power station in Israel. Russia will sell Israel the heavy parts of the nuclear station. The other parts will be developed in Israel and perhaps even sold to Russia.

House Holds Closed Session on Peace Process

JN2701140092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The House of Representatives held a closed session last night chaired by Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and other ministers. Discussions centered on political developments in the peace process.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, acting information minister and labor minister, in a statement to the JORANIAN NEWS AGENCY, said that a number of representatives expressed their views on the peace process and asked questions on Jordan's participation in the negotiations. He added that his excellency the prime minister answered the representatives' questions and said that Jordan's participation in the current peace process is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace. Our participation is in line with the general Arab position that has evolved over the last 10 months, and is based on the changing circumstances strongly affecting our nation.

His excellency added: We have dealt with the peace efforts strongly aware of their dimensions and with a certain desire to follow the principles to which we have been committed for years: Any political settlement must restore Arab rights, eliminate Israeli occupation of the occupied territories, and achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

We have also unequivocally committed ourselves to the Palestinian people's right to participate in the peace process and take charge of their cause themselves.

Answering a question on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, his excellency said: In response to Palestinian desires and objective needs, we agreed to the idea of a joint delegation as an umbrella under which the Palestinian people might contribute to the peace process. The coordination and consultation with our Palestinian brothers continues at all levels.

On Jordan's agreeing to attend the Madrid conference and subsequent meetings, the prime minister said: We regarded the peace process as an integrated process whose foremost objective is to achieveg a comprehensive and just settlement based on the two Security Council resolutions. He added: When we learned that the other Arab parties agreed to participate in the peace process, we were not apprised of anything that might have indicated any limits placed on this acceptance or any division of the peace process into separate parts.

His excellency added: We have participated, like all other concerned Arab parties, in the bilateral negotiations. One might say confidently and frankly that we were able to maintain our position and our determination to demand our national and Arab rights. We believe that our interest requires both determination and firmness toward achieving the desired goal.

His excellency said: We will use every opportunity to emphasize our firm and constant support for Palestinian rights. We have taken all possible measures to entrench the independent Palestinian participation.

Replying to a question on multilateral negotiations, his excellency said: We realize that the framework for an international conference is similar to the one we ourselves had requested. According to this formula, all Arab parties are present along with the participation of international sides whose declared positions, in many cases, are positive toward the Arab position. His excellency added: This formula may provide us with a better forum for presenting legitimate Arab rights, primarily Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories as a basis for comprehensive and lasting peace.

His excellency explained that the Moscow meeting is actually an organizational meeting for future multilateral negotiations. He added: We have made it clear to all parties that our presence does not indicate any change in our position. Our position demands that the main objective of the peace process is to secure Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and to restore Arab and Palestinian rights and that no new formulas may be made in the region unless a comprehensive and just solution is reached on the Palestine question. The cosponsors stated in their invitation to this meeting that they do not want to make the multilateral negotiations an alternative for the bilateral negotiations, but indeed complementary. To us, this means that we will be able to raise basic issues that are difficult to raise at the current negotiations, by linking any progress in the multilateral negotiations to what is taking place in the bilateral negotiations.

At the end of the session, his excellency answered some questions on the absence of comprehensive Arab coordination and said that Jordan's position is well known. His Majesty King Husayn and the government have made every effort to achieve Arab coordination and cooperation in order to forge a unified Arab negotiating position, improve intra-Arab relations, and agree on the minimum degree of accord and solidarity to safeguard Arab rights, solidify the Arab position, and highlight the role of the Arabs and their effectiveness in the international arena and in the new world order.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, said the House heard an explanation from the prime minister on Jordan's participation in the negotiations that are due to be held in Moscow next Tuesday. Following the closed session last night, he said that all ideas on these negotiations were reviewed and that emphasis was placed on maintaining state security, the importance of Jordan's location and steadfastness, and cooperation among parties. He added that the representatives have expressed many varied views on this subject. He also said the prime minister responded to their questions and pointed out that all agreed to continue discussing this issue in later sessions.

Palestinians Urged To Attend Moscow Conference

LD2701173992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, 27 Jan (KUNA)—According to informed sources here today, the Palestinian agreement to participate in the Moscow conference was the result of intensive Jordanian efforts to persuade the Palestinian side to attend. These sources told KUNA that the Jordanian leadership contacted the Palestinian side in Tunisia at dawn today prior to the Palestinians' decision to attend. The sources said that this contact coincided with intensive Jordanian contacts in the wake of the decision taken by Syria and Lebanon not to participate in the Moscow conference, as well as with similar Egyptian and Moroccan contacts.

In a closed session last night, the Jordanian prime minister told the House of Representatives about Jordanian moves that preceded Jordan's participation in the third stage of the peace conference.

U.S. Position on Israel, Moscow Talks Examined

JN2701160992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jan 92 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "We Negotiate With the Americans in Moscow as We Did in Washington!"]

[Text] The multilateral talks will begin in Moscow tomorrow. Therefore, we must point out an essential issue; that is, the international community will sit face to face with the Israelis in the Russian capital tomorrow. There is nothing strange in this because this community has always found itself forced to have such an encounter and even be defeated during it. The reason for this is that the United States, whether through its military, financial, or political support or through its contined use of the veto, supported Israel's arrogance and provided Israel with all the necessary means to violate international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Jordan, a participant in the multilateral talks, realizes that any attempt to put the cart before the horse is bound to fail and that unless the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions are upheld in the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations, there is no hope of its succeeding in resolving other problems; in particular, the restoration of the occupied territories to the Arabs and Israel's complete withdrawal will enable the region to live in total stability, general economic revival, a clean environment, and peace of mind. Without these conditions, the situation will be like a minefield.

Some affirm that Israel will not give the Arabs anything. They are right, and one could have envisioned that they might refuse to continue the bilateral talks or go to the multilateral talks. There is, however, one essential and principal issue that should not be forgotten: Our call for the implementation of international legitimacy is not due to the existence of a balance between us and Israel or because we and Israel possess deterrent weapons that threaten disaster. This call emanates from a clear U.S. pronouncement on the need to reach a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the inadmissibility of occupying other people's territories and holding them through force.

Therefore, we are not negotiating with the Israelis but with the United States. We know our ability to pressure Israel, as well as Washington's ability to do so. We also know the peculiarity and reality of the U.S.-Israeli alliance. For this reason we went to Washington and we are going to Moscow, while realizing that there is no hope for any change in Israel's position or commitment to international legitimacy—unless the United States forces such a commitment. The United States itself should also reaffirm its commitment to international legitimacy and its willingness to deal with all conflicts and issues of justice and freedom by adopting one position, one policy with no hypocrisy or double standards and without defending international legitimacy in one part of the region and undermining it in another.

The Arabs, the Israelis, and the Americans were in Washington. In Moscow, however, Arabs, Israelis, and many other parties will participate. The issue, is still the same; that is, we and the international community will sit opposite the United States and Israel and hold direct negotiations—the topic, essence, and objective of which are the UN principles and resolutions.

The issue is simply this: Is Washington willing to confirm its respect for these principles and resolutions, or will it turn its back on them and give its allies the ability to reject them and sabotage the entire peace process?

Islamic Liberation Party Backs Algeria's FIS

LD2701183992 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Athens, Jan. 27, IRNA—The Amman-based Islamic Liberation Party (Hizb al-Tahrir) has denounced the West for instigating the military takeover in Algeria that robbed the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) from getting power after its sweeping victory in election. In a statement faxed to IRNA from Amman Monday, the party said democracy for the Western world "is the democracy that safeguards its interests, but if it does not fulfill its interests it has no value for it and it tramples democracy under the feet."

The position of the West towards the Algerian election, said the statement in Arabic, shows the "extent of their enmity towards Islam and the Muslims and their desire to prevent Islam from ruling." "This position must make all Muslims realize that the U.S. and all Western states are enemies of Islam and their civilisation. They should not take these states as friends and seek help from them,"

it said. The statement underlined that the landslide victory of the Islamists in the Algerian elections was a "clear proof that the Algerians do not approve of anything but Islam because they see in it the only true civilisation that can solve all the problems of humanity."

"If Muslims were given the opportunity in the other Maghreb Arab states, or in Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Pakistan, Iraq, Jordan, or in other Muslim countries to choose the rule—without the interference of the rulers—the vast majority of them will choose Islamic rule." "The rulers in the Arab and the Muslim states, knowing this fact, are on their guard that the victory of the FIS could lead to an increase of Islamic dawa [call] in their countries and break the barrier of fear which they have imposed on their people," it said. The party strongly denounced the "Western plot against Islam" in Algeria and urged Muslims not to be despaired and feel sad, but to work more vigorously and seriously for the return of Islamic rule in their countries.

Al-Kabariti Appointed Acting Foreign Minister

JN2701161992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing Labor Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti acting foreign minister during Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir's absence abroad.

Information Minister Returns From Morocco Meeting

JN2701211092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif returned to Amman this evening after participating in the Jerusalem Committee meetings that were held in the Moroccan city of Marrakech. The information minister also participated in the meetings of a number of Arab foreign ministers held at the request of Morocco's King Hassan II. They discussed a number of issues pertaining to the peace process.

Lebanese Army Responsible for Security in South

NC2601064792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has stated that the Lebanese Army now is responsible for security in the southern area in which it deployed and that the UN forces are now guests. He said the Ghanaian contingent no longer is responsible for security in this area. Goksel noted that the UNIFIL commander, General Eric-Lars Wahlgren, sent a cable of congratulations to the Lebanese Army command.

Army units yesterday deployed in a number of villages neighboring Tayr Dibbah, Tyre District, which had been under the control of Ghanaian UN troops. In addition to Tayr Dibbah, the deployment covered the villages of Burj Rahhal, Bidyas, al-'Abbasiyah, Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, Tura, al-Bazuriyah, and Wadi Jilu.

Following the deployment, the Army units set up checkpoints and barricades, conducted patrols, and raised the Lebanese flag.

Foreign Ministry Questions UN Move

NC2601081392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Army deployed in the southern villages a few days before the UN Security Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday to discuss extending the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] mandate.

In a report to the Security Council two days ago, UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali recommended that the UNIFIL mandate be extended for six months, beginning 1 February. The report recommended a 10-percent reduction in UNIFIL personnel because maintaining UNIFIL costs more than $13 million a month.

The Foreign Ministry has contacted Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, to ask that this move be reconsidered, lest it be adopted by the Security Council. Makkawi has contacted UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali in New York on this matter.

Shammas Urges UN Mandate Extension

NC2701193792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] On the eve of the UN Security Council [UNSC] meeting to extend the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] for six months, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, has been approaching the ambassadors of the UNSC permanent members. After meeting with the U.S. and French ambassadors last weekend, he summoned British Ambassador David Tathan today. He will meet with the Russian and Chinese ambassadors tomorrow afternoon.

After meeting with UNIFIL political adviser 'Umar Halim this afternoon, Shammas emphasized that Lebanon insists that the present UNIFIL level be maintained. He said: We believe that maintaining this level is more necessary now than ever before. He rejected the idea of reducing UNIFIL personnel by 10 percent due to financial considerations and pressure on the UN budget for peacekeeping forces, especially in view of UN plans to send 10,000 UN personnel to Yugoslavia.

Shammas said: Another reason is that following the Army's deployment in Tayr Dibbah and other villages, some of them [not further identified] believe it is possible to reduce UNIFIL strength without impairing its effectiveness. Shammas said he has asked Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations, to intensify his contacts with the UNSC members on this matter. He also asked the Lebanese ambassadors in Paris and London to move in the same direction. He expressed his conviction that the states concerned will understand Lebanon's position and that the UNIFIL mandate will be extended again as it was the last time without reducing its personnel.

Junblatt Discusses Regional, Domestic Issues

NC2701213692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader, says that divisive forces still exist in Lebanon and that the national unity plan is not been implemented, noting that Israel can manipulate the situation in Lebanon, causing it to explode whenever necessary. In a comprehensive interview with the newspaper AL-SAFIR, he said: Every party has its own political views. We would conduct a dialogue with any Christian party—with the church and with the patriarch. [passage omitted]

He said: We say that the al-Ta'if accord is a transitional phase and we should approach the Christian side—the church and the various Christian figures—and tell them not to consider the al-Ta'if accord as a defeat for them. The al-Ta'if accord is a transitional phase to reach the desired situation free from sectarianism. If some circles in the Christian camp wait for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon in order to pounce on what we call the crumbs of al-Ta'if, we will enter an era of tension leading to a new war. [passage omitted]

Asked for his views of what the Christians want, Junblatt said that their spiritual leadership is flawed and the Maronite mentality still relies on separation and submission to Israel, and that there is a lost Christian party symbolized in the person of Michel 'Awn.

Asked whether the French are promoting elections to disrupt the Americans' plans, he said: No. French Minister Roland Dumas' visit merely was to raise the spirits of the Christian separatist forces, because there still exists the old dream that Lebanon is Christian. This dream has died and all of Lebanon has collapsed. If the

French pursue their policy, no Christian will remain in the Orient. [passage omitted]

Commenting on U.S. aid and its absence, Junblatt said: The reason is that they know this government lacks credibility. There also is the problem of the south. Israel is blocking U.S. aid. What we need is peace with Israel so that they will release some of the aid.

He added: The reasons that prompted Minister Birri to boycott cabinet meetings are the same ones that mad me to do the same. We hope we will be able to create a serious institution through what was termed as a bylaw. We explained our view: If we are to participate in the cabinet meetings, they should entrust us with responsibility. If, however, they want to take all responsibility, then why should we participate? The government has no joint strategy. Regrettably, small private interests are encouraged in the government. Perhaps the only existing strategy is Army Commander General Emile Lahhud's efforts to build the Army. For the first time in the Republic's history, there is a written order for Army brigades to confront the Israeli enemy. Beside this order, however, there are some areas of strength in the Army that are subject to foreign and domestic influences.

Replying to a question, he said: I have nothing against the defense minister, but some of his associates will harm his reputation. [passage omitted]

Asked whether they [not further specified] will silence the voices, Junblatt wondered: Why should they do so? No one can silence the media. The issue of freedom is an old one and no one can silence the internal nationalist voice, because this matter generates political war.

On the media organization plan, he said: Let them first organize the state media, and then let us have an organized state television competing with other media. True, there exists a strong private media, but why is the state media also not strong and why does the state not defend itself if it has any credibility? There is a commercial media octopus about which I do not have full details. Should we close down the media here when all continents are in turmoil? If they close down the private media here, some strong stations could still transmit from Cyprus or broadcast CNN. What would they do then?

Junblatt said: We want a comprehensive solution to the issue of the displaced people. But regarding the mountain, the situation is special. A war broke out between the Christians and the Druze on the mountain. This war had its reasons, therefore we want assurances. We do not want every Christian village to turn into a camp and we do not want a repetition of 1983. We want to know what the situation will be, should the Christians return to their homes. We also want to participate in this situation. He added: Al-Damur is a strategic issue, it is not something to joke about. In the past, the al-Damur Road was closed to the inhabitants in the south and the mountain, as was the case in Bhamdun and Suq al-Gharb. The issue is political, and if they want to return to the year 1860, I will not return with them. [passage omitted]

Junblatt asserted that negotiating with Israel is a waste of time and that the Americans now are preoccupied with domestic policies. He said the multilateral negotiations will aim to surround Lebanon and Syria—Syria in particular. What is required, he added, is to surround Syria and normalize ties with Israel so that Lebanon alone will suffer the consequences.

Asked about an alternative to the negotiations, he said: Israel's extremism will increase. I can envision Sharon as prime minister and a war with Lebanon. The entire Arab region is being invaded because Israel cannot refrain from expansion. Israel will not be satisfied even with the current Syrian position because it regards Syria as dangerous despite the Soviet Union's collapse. Israel also will not be satisfied with Egypt as it is now.

IDF Soldier, 3 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash

TA2601113692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Here is an announcement just in from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: An IDF soldier, 20-year-old Staff Sergeant 'Ofer Eliyahu, from Beersheva, was killed and another soldier moderately wounded when an IDF contingent clashed with terrorists in southern Lebanon's western sector. The soldiers' families have been notified.

An IDF force carrying out routine operational activity in the security zone encountered a terrorist squad. Staff Sergeant 'Ofer Eliyahu, 20, from Beersheva was killed in the exchange of fire and another soldier moderately wounded and evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Three terrorists were killed in the clash. This was reported by the IDF spokesman.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 26 January adds in a later report by Menahem Horowitz: "The clash took place early this morning in the western sector, several kilometers north of the border fence between Israel and Lebanon, inside southern Lebanon's security zone." The report says the three terrorists who were killed "probably belonged to Hizballah, but that is still being checked."

Israelis Fire on Villages in South, Withdraw

NC2601115692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] According to the latest reports from our correspondents in the south, the Israeli soldiers who entered the villages of Kafra, Yatar, and Sribbin withdrew at 1230 today after raking the villages with bullets and artillery fire. A short while ago, the occupation troops' helicopters were seen flying over the region to provide cover for their soldiers positioned in (Wadi Ra'im), which lies between the villages of Yatar and Bayt Lif.

IDF, SLA Reinforced for 'Terrorist Activity'

TA2801054192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Forces] in southern Lebanon have been reinforced in the event there may be increased terrorist activity on the opening day of the Moscow talks. A senior officer told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that incidents in recent months have shown that the Hizballah organization in Lebanon has attempted to carry out spectacular attacks at each stage of the peace talks. The officer said it is reasonable to assume that the Iranian Government is behind Hizballah actions in Lebanon.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Beirut, South 28 Jan

NC2801083392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out reconnaissance sorties over southern Lebanon, Beirut, and the mountain, breaking the sound barrier, at approximately 1005 today.

Conditions Said 'Ripe' for Renewed Hostage Talks

NC2401203992 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Beirut, Jan 24 (AFP)—Conditions are ripe for a resumption in negotiations aimed at freeing two German hostages, the last Westerners held in Lebanon, several sources said Friday. Conditions have "significantly improved" for two Lebanese Shiite Muslims, brothers Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi, imprisoned in Germany for committing terrorist acts, sources close to the Hammadi family said.

The Hammadi family is believed to be holding two German aid workers, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner, who were abducted in 1989. A source familiar with the hostage negotiations said the kidnappers, who have demanded the release of the brothers, would now be prepared to free the Germans if Bonn merely guaranteed to reduce the Hammadis' sentences.

Although there has been no such concession, the Hammadi brothers are now held in the same cell and have been allowed to receive family members granted visas for Germany, sources close to the Hammadis in Lebanon said.

The Hammadis believe the "German authorities are now sensitive to the humanitarian aspect, which they had ignored" when U.N. envoy Giandomenico Picco held talks late last year to end the hostage drama, the sources said. Pico's mission failed because the German Government had refused to link the hostage affair with the Hammadi case, the sources said. Pico, unable to offer the kidnappers anything in return, was left relying only on Damascus and Tehran to pressure the kidnappers, they added.

'Sources' Oppose Moscow Multilateral Talks

JN2701181792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Jan 92

['Abdallah al-Dardari dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Official Syrian sources have told our radio that the Syrian position on the multilateral negotiations is definitive and irrevocable, no matter what the positions of the other Arab parties. The sources added that the Moscow negotiations seek to liquidate the Palestinian cause, merge Israel into the region without the regaining of either the Arab territories or the the Palestinian people's rights. The sources said that the coming days will show how sound Syria's position on the Moscow negotiations has been.

The sources said: This round of talks will be a platform for the implementation of all of Israel's designs in the region. The sources explained that the U.S. peace initiative which Syria had approved, did not refer to regional cooperation but to principle of land for peace. In spite of this, Syria's reservations are about the timing of the Moscow round before attaining any progress in the bilateral negotiations and not on the principle of the Moscow talks. The sources affirmed that although there is a difference of opinion among the Arab parties on the multilateral negotiations, Syria has absolutely no intention of launching media campaigns against its Arab brothers. Syria will seek to maintain the highest level of coordination possible with the other Arab parties.

Information Minister on Talks, Nuclear Arms

JN2701114292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo—Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stressed that Israel does not want peace because originally its existence was based on aggression at the Arabs' expense. He added that Israel does not at all want of peace, but claims to do so in order to gain time and bring in more settlers.

In an an interview published in the latest issue of the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, the information minister said that Israel rejects international legitimacy and both UN and Security Council resolutions. He said that Arabs should work with the Security Council, which has issued resolutions condemning Israel and has again demanded that it stop its settlements, in order to maintain the dignity of the international body and protect international legitimacy. The information minister demanded that the world, particularly the United States and the UN Security Council, hold Israel responsible for obstructing the talks in Madrid and Washington.

Regarding Syria's refusal to attend the multilateral talks, the minister said Syria will not go to the multilateral talks so long as there are no statements affirming that Israel will withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and give the Palestinians their legitimate rights.

On the current thinking about Western concerns over nuclear defiance by the Islamic countries while there is no mention of Israel, which has had nuclear weapons for years, the information minister said no one can talk about weapons in the region and exclude Israel, because it is the only country in the region to possess nuclear weapons. Despite this and despite the world's knowledge of this, Israel and its nuclear weapons are being overlooked, he added.

The information minister wondered why nuclear weapons are considered dangerous when in the hands of any Muslim country and not dangerous in Israel's hands. He stressed that when any country feels that its existence is threatened, it should try to secure itself against aggression. He added that the Arabs do not possess nuclear weapons. He said, however, that the world should speak truthfully and frankly and remove nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction from the region by turning first to Israel and demanding that its supply.

The information minister demanded that the West use one standard to rid the region of all types of weapons of mass destruction. This issue, he said, was upheld by Syria at the 1990 Paris conference when it officially proposed removing all weapons of destruction from the area. Israel, he added, is the only country that rejects these proposals or resolutions.

Regarding the situation in Algeria, the minister said that all Arabs are proud of the Algerian people's revolutionary achievements. He said he hopes that these people will prove their ability to maintain the national unity which achieved independence.

In conclusion, the information minister expressed Syria's earnest desire for Arab reunification by establishing a workable formula through which the Arabs can hold a unified position on various crucial issues.

Urges International Action for Peace

JN2801070192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman has urged the international community to work toward the implementation of the resolutions of its international organizations. Failing that, there will be no new world order resting on international legitimacy, and the situation will grow worse.

Interviewed by the Egyptian weekly AKHIR SA'AH, the minister said that Israel's failure to comply with international efforts leads one to be less than optimistic about the prospects for peace in which Syria believes and which underlies international legitimacy upheld by pertinent UN resolutions. After noting that relations between Syria and Egypt have been historically solid, Salman went on to say that our top priority is the fundamental conflict between the Arabs and Israel. Israel does not want peace as it demonstrated at the Madrid conference and the Washington talks where it

refused to consider positive proposals or international resolutions. Israel's failure to acknowledge that it occupies Arab land means that it looks to commit further aggression, Salman added.

The minister stressed that Israel is an anti-peace factor in the region. Its leaders belueve that peace runs counter to their desire and existence. Therefore, Israel refuses the definition of its borders, despite all the expansion and settlement activity and the attendant oppression and displacement of Arabs, especially the Palestinians.

Editorials Urge Rejection of Peace Talks

JN2501091592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on a critical turning point in the Middle East peace process. AL-THAWRAH maintains that going to Moscow and opening the multilateral talks there—in the absence of any grounds or specific political foundations—will be a clear forfeiture of Arab rights, regardless of any ex:uses or arguments to justify such a move, especially as the two bitter rounds of Washington talks with the Israeli side failed to identify a point of departure for the Moscow talks.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If it had any desire for peace, Israel would have accepted the start of the talks according to basic requirements. Israel rejects everything in defiance of the world and UN resolutions. It is making persistent efforts to move the negotiations to Moscow, so that it can sidestep the pivotal and key central point in the peace process—namely, Resolutions 242 and 338—in a bid to force the Arabs to waste their time over totally absurd issues that have nothing to do with peace.

AL-THAWRAH spells out the objective Israel wants to achieve during the Moscow talks: Israel wants the Arabs to give everything in return for nothing. The paper points out that the Moscow negotiations will actually be a new labyrinth to trap the Arabs, pending a clear result of U.S. elections and a delineation of roles—something that would enable Israel to identify its ability to maneuver accordingly and thus to control the management of the peace process by way of intensive pressure on the U.S. Administration.

AL-THAWRAH urges Arabs to make the proper decision at the right time and the right place, saying: The pan-Arab awakening requires one to make a unanimous pan-Arab decision right now that would see the nation's interests and future as something sacred, a decision that would make the world realize that Arabs neither forfeit rights nor abandon territories or dignity. This statement refers to a decision that would make the world, in general, and the United States, primarily, face up to its declared responsibilities and pledges to achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

In conclusion, the newspaper recalls statements made by leader al-Asad in his address to the nation. He said: If you are capable of achieving a decisive victory, then you should not surrender, a critical move. The issue must be left in the nation's hands, in the hands of its successive generations. These generations have the right to determine their destiny, and consequently, should give up their right to do so.

Under the headline "The Multilateral Talks," TISHRIN comments on the same issue, affirming that correct premises are bound to produce correct conclusions. The paper adds: A structural program was set up for the entire peace process. By that, we mean that three phases for the process were identified. It is clear that each and every phase complements the one before it and enriches it, especially if progress is achieved in the previous phase. The reference here is to the possible creation of new climates of trust and hope regarding the enhancement of the peace process and guaranteeing its success.

TISHRIN adds: Thus, the phase of bilateral talks must identify means to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. Regarding the multilateral talks on regional cooperation, this phase should be started after Israel pledges to withdraw and meets the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace. These talks are also supposed to embody the world's contribution to regional stability and development.

TISHRIN states that the Israeli aggressors have by passed the phase of bilateral talks. By so doing, the paper notes, the aggressors' position, vis-a-vis their continued occupation of Arab territories, will remain unchanged. Besides, they continue to deny the Palestinian people's inalienable, legitimate national rights. Moreover, they will continue to reject the resolutions of international legitimacy, the paper adds.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The Arabs have voiced their final say in this regard; namely, that there can be no peace under occupation and that issues of regional cooperation cannot be discussed so long as Israel perpetuates its occupation and evades the resolutions that call for its withdrawal.

Only Israel To Benefit From Multilateral Talks

JN2601172992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1234 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The decision to go to the peace conference has not been made haphazardly so long as the objective of this conference, as indicated by all deliberations that preceded it and the international initiative on which it was based, is to implement the international resolutions, achieve a just and comprehensive solution and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

We had no doubt about Israel's hidden intentions toward the peace process. Over several decades, we experienced the real Israeli position toward peace and its implementation in terms of right and justice. During the various stages of the peace negotiations, from Madrid to Washington, we wanted the world to take a closer look at this Israeli anti-peace position and become acquainted with the dangers of Israel's intentions against us, the region, and the whole world after long years during which some international powers thought Israel was the one seeking peace with the Arabs blocking the way.

Perhaps, we have really succeeded over the past three months to expose fully the Israeli position to international and U.S. public opinion. Opinion polls indicate that Americans have a certain conviction that Israel is the major obstacle to peace. This result, however, has not been and should not be an objective in itself, but a means to put the peace negotiations on the right path. Israel is trying to derail these multilateral negotiations because Israel wants to a reward on a golden platter, and the Arabs will not get anything and will not achieve any of the peace talks' objectives.

From the very beginning, we have clearly linked the multilateral negotiations to the progress of the peace talks in Madrid and Washington in a bid to have peace and out of our deep faith that the multilateral negotiations are an Israeli demand that aims to bypass the peace process, blackmail the Arabs, and take from them what Israel could not take in war.

We have explained this position to all Arab brothers and to the peace brokers, and we warned against dividing the Arab fold on such an issue and giving Tel Aviv a chance to use the same trick that it has been using against the Arabs for more than 50 years. If some Arabs are not aware of this fact and think they might make some gains in Moscow that they did not in Washington, we emphasize that only a few days away from the Moscow negotiations, this view is completely unrealistic, that what can be achieved now at the Moscow talks will only benefit Israel. In that case, the interests of the Arabs are driven to the guillotine. What Arabs will bear this responsibility and who will shoulder the responsibility of firing the bullet of mercy on all that we have achieved and what we could have achieved had we all adhered to the right path and drawn the right conclusions from what happened and what is happening in order to reach the objective.

Cuban Official Arrives, Praises Relations

JN2801112992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Cuba's Jose Ramon Fernandez, the vice president of the Council of Ministers, has praised the good ties between Cuba and Syria. In an arrival statement to SANA last night, he said his country appreciates the courageous, historic stands of Syria, its people, and leadership regarding the just causes in the world. We in Cuba admire Syria's positions. We came to Syria to meet with friends in the Syrian leadership and exchange views on a number of international issues of mutual interest, the Cuban official added. He indicated that the visit should help promote bilateral ties in all areas. The visit takes place under circumstances that require us to hold contacts with our friends, based on our close ties, and in order to advance our mutual interests, said Jose Ramon Fernandez.

Afghanistan

Rebel Attack Foiled in Nangarhar Province

LD2601150192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] An attack by the fundamentalist groups was repulsed the night before last as a result of bravery by the personnel of the security posts located in the region of Samar Khel, Nangarhar, and the aggressors sustained heavy losses.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of retaliatory attacks by the personnel of the security posts (?14) men from the aforementioned groups were crushed and a heavy machinegun, a communication system, and a large quantity of their ammunition were seized.

Seven Opposition Groups Join Government Side

LD2601193992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Headed by Amer Hassan, Sadr-e Azam, Haji Nazar, Abdoljan, Haji Ahmad Khan, Sofi Khiyal and Shindi seven armed opposition groups, consisting of 2,500 armed men and 5,000 unarmed persons, have recently joined the government national reconciliation policy by abondoning armed activities and joined the ranks of the defenders of the homeland and the people. According to a report by the BIA Military Section, the groups were welcomed by Major General Abdol Baqi, Assistant Minister of State Security, the leadership of Baghlan Province and ulema, clergy, elders and a large number of the peace-loving people, who congratulated them on their joining the national reconciliation policy. [passage omitted] The groups, which were associated with Jamiat formations and Golboddin's Hezb-e Islami, were armed with more than 2,000 light weapons, a large quantity of ammunition, and surace to surface missiles.

The BIA Military Section reports that in the past week 14 opposition groups consisting of 4,600 armed men and 13,000 unarmed persons gave up fighting in Baghlan Province and joined the country's humane and Islamic policy of national reconciliation. The joining of these groups has ensured security in 98 villages, and the people of the area have resumed their peaceful life.

Najibollah Sends Message to Iran's President

LD2601191192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1330 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Esteemed Najibollah, President of Afghanistan, recently sent a friendly goodwill message to Tehran, addressed to 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the message, the esteemed president of Afghanistan noted recent developments in the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan, the recent rapid political and military development in the region, the development of bilateral relations between both countries and their prospects. He also noted the need for new forms of cooperation in the framework of the neighborly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He expressed thanks and appreciation for the humanitarian assistance of the fraternal and neighboring country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the people of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Local, Burmese Commanders To Discuss Tensions

BK2701004892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 26 (AFP)—Local Bangladeshi and Burmese commanders are to meet Tuesday at a Burmese border town to discuss bilateral tensions, an official statement here said.

The sector commanders of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Burmese Lunthin Guards are to meet at the Burmese border town of Mong Daung on Tuesday as scheduled, a BDR statement carried by the BSS News Agency said.

The main agenda items of the border talks "are the attack on the Rejupara border outpost, continuous military buildup of Burma in the border, and illegal infiltration into Bangladesh by the Burmese nationals," the statement said.

It will be the third round of border talks since ties became strained over a December 21 raid on the Rejupara BDR outpost, allegedly by Burmese troops, in which four people including one soldier were killed.

The dispute sparked military and diplomatic tensions leading to two rounds of inconclusive border talks, on December 31 and January 7.

The attack followed the year-long flight of thousands of Moslems from Burma's Arakan Province to the southeastern Bangladesh area of Cox's Bazaar.

Between 25,000 and 60,000 Rohingya Moslems have fled their homes and taken shelter in Bangladesh. They claim that Burmese security forces have launched a drive against minority Moslems in Arakan and are committing atrocities.

The Burmese Government has said its military operations in the area are aimed at rebel Moslem guerrillas rather than at the Rohingya population as a whole.

Local officials in Cox's Bazaar said earlier that tension along the border had subsided after Burmese troops pulled back from the area.

PRC Helping To Restore Ties With Burma

BK2701073892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0724 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 27 (AFP)—China is helping to restore friendly ties between Bangladesh and Burma, strained by a border incident a month ago, as defence officials here Monday insisted that the two were not on the verge of war.

"China, which has close ties with both Bangladesh and Burma, has extended its helping hand to ensure that the two neighbouring countries can settle their problems amicably," a senior government official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

He said Beijing, also a major source of weapons for both countries, had assured Bangladesh that it "feels that there is no threat of conflict from the Burmese side."

Dhaka would seek a settlement through negotiations to problems on the border, where Burmese military activity has sent tens of thousands from the Moslem Rohingya minority fleeing into Bangladesh, the official said.

"The border talks scheduled for Tuesday are part of those negotiations and the problem of Burmese Moslem refugees is expected to be settled during the visit of Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw some time in February," he said.

Separately, senior defence officials here insisted that there was "no war-like situation and all our activities (along the border) are normal."

"There has been no new mobilisation of troops or increase in military traffic in that region, instead some had been withdrawn," one officer said, adding that such movements could be easily monitored by neighbours.

The sector commanders of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Burmese Lunthin guards are scheduled to meet at a Burmese border town Tuesday, a BDR statement said Sunday.

It said the agenda would cover "the attack on the Rejupara border outpost, continuous military buildup of Burma on the border and illegal infiltration into Bangladesh by the Burmese nationals."

It will be the third round of talks since the December 21 raid on the BDR outpost, allegedly by Burmese troops, in which four people including a soldier were killed. Rangoon has denied responsibility.

Between 25,000 and 60,000 Rohingya Moslems have fled their homes in the Arakan District and taken refuge in Bangladesh's Cox Bazaar area, alleging atrocities by Burmese security forces.

Rangoon says its military operations in the area are aimed at insurgents rather than the Rohingya population as a whole. Some government quarters in Dhaka are inclined to agree.

Security sources in Dhaka and Cox's Bazaar earlier said the tension along the border had subsided after Burmese troops pulled back from the area.

Officials termed "sad" recent local and international press reports of mounting tension and said they were blown up out of proportion.

Military activities at all levels were normal and no reservists had been called up, a normal practice before a "war-like situation," one defence source said.

One senior official said repatriation of the refugees was very important as Dhaka could not afford to feed and clothe them, adding "we hope it will be resolved soon."

The Bangladesh authorities had started to make a list of refugees in line with a request from Rangoon, he said.

Another source said the Dhaka Government's initial more bellicose comments were "political," designed to show that it was not sleeping as well as strong enough to defend the country. It now wanted "a quiet diplomatic settlement."

A Foreign Office spokesman said "Burma is our only other neighbour besides India and we look forward to fruitful bilateral ties."

India

BJP's Unity March Assembles in Jammu

BK2501040092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested the Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, and 67 of his party men at Lakhanpur checkpost as they entered the state territory from Punjab last evening. According to reports reaching Chandigarh, the arrests were made yesterday evening apprehending breach of peace. Others arrested included two party general secretaries, Mr. Sucha Singh Chotepur, and Mr. Charanjit Singh Walia. AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent reports that Mr. Mann had announced to hold a parallel rally against the BJP's ekta yatra [Bharatiya Janata Party's unity march] at Iqbal park in Srinagar tomorrow.

A contingent of six to eight bus load of people will participate in the BJP's sponsored ekta yatra from Jammu this morning. The party president, Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi, told AIR Jammu correspondent this morning that he would continue to lead the yatra. The national executive of the BJP held a meeting till late last night to consider the Jammu and Kashmir government proposal that only a limited number of persons be taken to Srinagar in view of the present law and order situation

in Kashmir valley. Senior BJP leaders, Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, also attended the meeting. Large number of party workers, who have assembled in Jammu from different parts of the country to join the yatra, have now been advised to assemble at the Parade Ground in Jammu at 1500 this afternoon.

The curfew imposed in Srinagar following yesterday's bomb blast in the police chief's office continues to be in force. The injured police officers are now out of danger. The new director general of police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, takes over charge today. He was earlier scheduled to take over on the 28th of this month. All educational institutions in Jammu have been ordered to remain closed for the second day today.

Reaches Udhampur

BK2501132292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The BJP's ekta yatra is reported to be at Udhampur till about 1700 this evening. The BJP president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, and his party workers traveling on a caravan of eight buses under heavy security cover reached Udhampur this afternoon. The yatra which was scheduled to reach Ramban by this evening was still at Udhampur when reports last came in. There has been no official statement about the journey of the yatra from Udhampur onwards. Agency reports say the BJP leaders might be flown to Srinagar for attending tomorrow's flag-hoisting ceremony at Lal Chowk. One report says that Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is blocked at two points between Ramban and Banihal because of landslides.

Meanwhile, the indefinite curfew clamped in Srinagar city yesterday after the bomb blast in the state police chief's office continued for the second day. Anantnag town in south Kashmir and Sopor in north Kashmir were also placed under curfew this morning. The situation in these areas is reported to be tense but under control. One report says there was an exchange of fire between the security forces and militants in Srinagar city this afternoon.

Mr. B.S. Bedi has taken over as the director general of Jammu and Kashmir police. He has been appointed in place of Mr. J.N. Saxena who was injured along with four other senior officials at yesterday's explosion in his office.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1256 GMT on 25 January in a similar report adds: "Hindu nationalists on Saturday abandoned their road journey to Srinagar, just a day before they were to arrive in a convoy and unfurl the Indian flag in the heart of a Moslem insurgency. The 15,000-kilometre (9,000-mile) "ekta yatra" (unity voyage) across the length of India was in its tense last leg in Kashmir when its premature termination was announced here. Lal Krishan Advani, a senior leader of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), said the road to Srinagar had been 'damaged,' explaining why the yatra had been called off at the 11th hour. He said BJP president Murli Manohar Joshi, who was leading the cavalcade, would fly to Srinagar by a helicopter to raise the Indian tricolour at Lal Chowk (Red Square), planned as a challenge to Moslem secessionism. Moslem militants had threatened to thwart the programme and said they had set up suicide squads to prevent the cavalcade from reaching Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub of their often bloody secessionist drive. The termination of the yatra was announced hours after Joshi left with about 450 supporters from Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir, in a convoy of eight buses after leaving thousands of activists behind. It was to reach its destination Sunday after a 300-kilometre (180-mile) drive along the Jammu-Srinagar highway, a part of which was blocked by landslides Friday. The Indian government had advised Joshi to ride a military helicopter for at least a 30-kilometre (18-mile) stretch from the Banihall pass snaking through the mountains because it was ideal terrain for an ambush, BJP sources said. The BJP yatra began in the southernmost Indian town of Kanyakumari on December 11 with national integration as its stated goal."] uphold national unity.

Notice Served Pakistan

BK2701092892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The BJP says its ekta yatra has served notice to Pakistan that under no circumstances will its nefarious designs in Kashmir be allowed to succeed. A meeting of the party central office bearers in Jammu last night expressed satisfaction at what it called the successful culmination of the Ekta Yatra. The meeting said the yatra demonstrated the nation's resolve to wage an unrelenting battle against terrorism and secessionism. The party spokesman, Mr. J.P. Mathur, told newspersons in Jammu that people rose above caste, language, and region to uphold national unity.

Militants Killed in Kashmir

BK2601144492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, four militants were killed in separate incidents since last night. They include a self-styled area commander of the outlawed Hizbul Mujahidin group. Agency reports say militants fired three rockets on the residence of Kupwara superintendent of police. There was no casualty, but the house was damaged.

Election Process Begins in Punjab

BK2501032292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpts] In Punjab, filing of nominations for the Lok Sabha and [state] assembly elections begins today. Polling is to be held on the 19th of next month. The

president and state governor have issued notifications to this effect. While the president called upon the electorate of 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state to exercise their franchise, the governor called upon voters in 117 assembly constituencies to do likewise. [passage omitted]

The state governor, Mr. Surender Nath, has said that all arrangements have been completed for the coming elections. Addressing a joint meeting of the officers and security forces and the returning officers in Ludhiana yesterday, he called upon them to ensure free and fair elections in the state.

Akali Dal Faction To Take Part

BK2501091092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The Shiromani Akali Dal, Kabul faction, has decided to take part in the Punjab election. This was announced by the party leader, Captain Amarinder Singh, at a press conference in Chandigarh today. He said the decision was taken at a party meeting held recently. Capt. Singh said that the newly constituted seven-member parliamentary board will meet in Chandigarh tomorrow to discuss the party strategy. He said that his party will contest all the 13 Lok Sabha and 117 assembly seats in adjustment with the left parties. Capt. Amarinder Singh said his party stands for a solution of the Punjab problem within a framework of the Constitution and is in favor of the Rajiv-Longowal accord.

Akali Dal-Mann President Released

BK2601161792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The president of the Akali Dal-Mann, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, and the general secretaries of the All India Sikh Students Federation—Mr. Harvinder Singh Gill and Mr. Laghbir Singh Dhillon—along with 130 party workers were released at Pathankot last night. They were arrested yesterday at Lakhanpur while proceeding to Srinagar to hold a counter rally there against the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

Akali Dal Faction Splits; Forms New Party

BK2501132692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Reports from Chandigarh say that the Akali Dal-Badal has split with the senior vice president and former Punjab minister, Mr. Sukhjinder Singh, announcing the formation of a new party. Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh, he said the new party will be called Akali Dal-Sukhjinder and will participate in the elections.

The Pheruman Akali Dal and the Sikh Council have appealed to all Akali factions in Punjab to contest the elections to affirm their faith in democracy. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the president of the Pheruman Akali Dal, Mahant Sevadas Singh, said it is necessary to stop antinational forces from coming to power.

President's Message on Republic Day Eve

BK2501171892 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 25 Jan 92

["Message" to the nation by President R. Venkataraman on the eve of Republic Day—recorded]

[Excerpts] Friends, on the eve of our 43d Republic Day I have great pleasure in conveying to all fellow citizens living in India and abroad my cordial felicitations and greetings. This is a cherished anniversary for us. It was on this day in 1950 that our country was welded into a sovereign democratic republic and the people acquired fundamental rights, liberty, equality and fraternity. We remember today the sagacious Dr. Rajendra Prasad, our first president of the republic; our beloved first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India; and the indomitable Sardar Ballavbhai Patel who brought diverse princely authorities under the unified control of the new republic. The national tricolor which had inspired us during the struggle for freedom went up on that historic day with a flutter of confidence and expectations. Sarbapalli Radhakrishnan in an address to the Constituent Assembly on the day the flag was officially adopted said, and I quote: The flag tells us to be ever alert, be ever on the move, go forward, to work for free, flexible, compassionate, descent, democratic society in which the Christians, the Sikhs, the Muslims, the Hindus, the Buddhists will all find a safe shelter. Unquote. [Passage omitted]

I refer to the impediments being placed on our path by three negative forces which are unremittingly at work. These are the cult of terrorism, the virus of communal hatred, and an invisible but almost corrosive phenomenon of pervasive slackening in the national discipline. Bullets and bombs have no place in a democracy. The avenues for constitutional redress exist. And if public servants on duty, political figures, journalists and innocent men, women and children have been or are being killed and taken hostages in many parts of the country almost on a daily basis. [sentence as heard]. Punjab, the valley of Kashmir, Assam, several parts of northeast and certain areas of south and central India have been witness to cold, calculated, and bizarre acts of terrorism. Our security forces and our Army wherever deployed have shown tremendous grit and patience. I would like to take this opportunity to compliment them on their courage and valor. But it is necessary now to go beyond, weeding out terrorism's toxic plant. We must ensure that the causes and conditions which breed terrorism are eliminated. This would call for a more vigorous implementation of land reforms, of waste land development, of reduction of disparities and provision for adequate employment opportunities for our youth. We must not assume that cash (?nexus) is sufficient to fulfill human aspirations. Cultural and regional identities need to be

assured and reassured that they are safe in a democratic polity such as ours. Even simultaneously, offer the constitutional and democratic path for the ventilation of grievances and for the realization of local aspirations. The new government's initiatives to bring heeling touch to some of the nation's deep pains are therefore a matter of great satisfaction. Consultation, conciliation, and concord are time-tested remedies.

It is a matter of shame and sorrow that we have not been able to prevent communal and caste violence in different parts of the country. Innocent religious processions or festivals end up in a violent eruption. Very often the cause for the clashes are absurdly trivial. And it let loose a trail of death and destruction. And more often than not women and children are the most unfortunate sufferers. All restraints, all civility seem to evaporate when frenzy overtake even sensible men. Such instances of violence are a blot on our cultural heritage and our national image as a nonviolent and peaceful people.

This brings me to the third negative factor I mentioned. Namely increasing indiscipline and palpable erosion of faith in the rule of law. Individuals, political organizations, professional groups, trade union take all so quickly to the path of agitation and obstruction. The result is a breakdown in public order. One of the most distinguished framers of our Constitution, Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, said as long back as 1947: The recent happenings in different parts of the country have convinced more than ever that all the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution must be subject to public order, security, and safety. Unquote. [as heard]

The exercise of one's right is always subject to noninfringement of the rights of others. There is a story that an Englishman walked along swinging his walking stick and it struck the nose of another person. When the injured person objected, the wielder of the stick said that England had ensured freedom to all people and that in swinging his stick he was only exercising his right. The objector then replied: Sir your freedom ends where my nose begins. It is a truism that while in a dictatorship laws are enforced, in a democracy laws are voluntarily observed. The rule of law in a democracy must be maintained by inner restraint, by self-discipline. But maintained it must be. [passage omitted]

The nation is undergoing acute economic and financial crisis and it is the duty of every citizen to contribute his might for the recovery and rehabilitation of the economy. There is an urgent need to maximize production and ensure its equitable distribution so that the weaker sections are not left to fend for themselves. Nothing that militates against the fullest utilization of all existing capacities in agriculture, industry, trade, commerce, communications, and banking should be tolerated or encouraged. If we are to emerge from the crisis, a moratorium should be declared voluntarily at a national level for at least two years on all bundhs [strikes], strikes, lockouts, or any other activity such as go-slow or work-to-rule which impede economic development. It is a duty which we owe to our own children and progeny.

Friends, the bipolar division of the world is now virtually a thing of the past. The cold war has ended. International relations are moving toward a redefinition with all the juxtapositions becoming obsolete. India's role in a world that is no longer bipolar will continue to be important. We cannot assume that the new emerging world order will be free from strain. Conflagration can occur even in the changed scenario and exploitation of the weak nations can acquire new forms.

The principles underlying our policy of nonalignment and pancasila [five principles for peaceful coexistence] will therefore continue to be relevant to the world. The recent visits to India by the prime ministers of Nepal and China gave us an opportunity to continue our dialogue with these two ancient neighbors. It is our hope that a solution to the differences between India and China would be found soon. It is equally our desire to normalize relations with Pakistan. But the active encouragement and assistance rendered to the militants in Punjab and Kashmir from across the border stands in the way of normalization. India wants and will work for peace. But India will not compromise on its territorial integrity and sovereignty. I have great pleasure in once again offering Republic Day greetings to the sons and daughters of India to our kisans and mazdoors [farmers and workers], our village artisans, to our entrepreneurs, scientists, and technologists, to our administrators, creative artists, professionals, teachers, and students. It is my special pleasure as supreme commander to extend my greetings to all defense forces and commend their valor in guarding our borders under extreme conditions. More than 2,000 years ago, the Tamil saint, Tiruvalluvar said: [saint's couplet in Tamil cited]. Rendered in English, the verse means that if a great nation does not divide into warring sects, it is free from murdrous anarchists and it has no traitors within its bosom to ruin it. Let us build that India through discipline in thought, word, and deed, through unity among all classes of our people, and through selfless service to the nation. Jai Hind [Hail India]

Republic Day Marked By Parades, Militant Rockets

BK2601165092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Spectacular parades and hoisting of the national flag throughout the country marked the celebrations of the 43d Republic Day today. In the capital, the president, Mr. Venkataraman took the salute at the parade displaying the nation's military prowess and its cultural heritage. [passage omitted on the details of celebrations in various parts of the country]

There was tight security arrangement at Lal Chowk in Srinagar for the flag hoisting by Dr. Joshi who had flown in yesterday after abandoning the land route because of heavy landslides. Militants fired two rockets in the area

before the function but no damage was caused. Agency reports say there were exchanges of fire between the militants and the security forces throughout the night. Dr. Joshi said militants fired at the plane that took him back to Jammu immediately after the flag hoisting ceremony but the state government has denied this.

Addressing a public rally in Jammu BJP leaders said hoisting the national flag at Lal Chowk was a symbolic action to convey to the militants and their masters across the border that Kashmir is an integral part of India. They thanked the Jammu and Kashmir authorities for the help given to them.

Talking to newsmen, Dr. Joshi said his party will continue similar programs to promote national unity.

The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Girish Saxena, hoisted the national flag in the winter capital Jammu and urged political parties to reactivate themselves in the Kashmir valley. The state government released 281 detainees on the occasion. [passage omitted]

Kashmir Denies Rockets

BK2801032292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has denied reports appearing in a section of the press about rocket attacks on the venue of the Republic Day flag-hoisting ceremony of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in Srinagar on Sunday. An official spokesman said in Srinagar yesterday that no rocket fell even near the venue of the Don Bosco School. The spokesman also denied that the Indian Airlines aircraft carrying the Ekta Yatris [people taking part in the unity march] from Srinagar to Jammu was fired at while taking off.

The BJP vice president, Mr. Sikander Bakht, says the Ekta Yatra to Srinagar has created the right atmosphere to solve the country's problems. Mr. Bakht, who was present at the BJP flag-hoisting at the Lal Chowk in Srinagar, said in New Delhi yesterday that the yatra has succeeded in making the people fully aware of the great danger country faces from terrorism and secessionism. The yatra united the country to crush the Pakistan-inspired mischief in Kashmir, he added.

Portugese President Arrives on State Visit

BK2501093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The Portugese president, Dr. Mario Soares, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on an 11-day state visit to India. Dr. Soares was received at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; his cabinet colleagues and other dignitaries. He was given a ceremonial welcome and was presented a guard of honor. Dr. Mario Soares will be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day parade in the capital. The Portugese president during the stay will have talks with the president, the prime minister, and other Indian leaders. Talking to newsmen soon after his arrival, Dr. Soares said his talks with Indian leaders would include bilateral trade and commerce. The Portugese president will also visit Jaipur, Goa, Bombay, Daman and Dieu, and Cochin during his stay in the country.

Venkataraman Fetes Soares

BK2601050892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Portuguese president, Dr. Mario Soares, has said that his country will support relaunching of the North-South dialogue in all international forums apart from defending it in the European Community. Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honor by the president in New Delhi last night, Dr. Soares said that his country values close ties of cooperation and cultural relations with India.

In his address, the president, Mr. Venkataraman, said that the integration of Europe and the ongoing economic reforms in India will open up new areas of trade and economic cooperation between India and Portugal.

Soares on Ties, East Timor

BK2701100892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Portuguese president, Dr. Mario Soares, says that both his country and the European Community will not lend any support to terrorism. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said the situation in Kashmir and Punjab figured during his talks with Indian leaders. He said that terrorism should be condemned by all. On bilateral ties, Dr. Soares hoped that India and Portugal will expand their relations in economic, cultural and other fields in a big way. His country's suggestion to open a Portuguese consulate in Goa to strengthen cultural relations was accepted by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, subject to the clearance of the state government. The talks also covered expansion of trade, joint ventures, human rights, and other matters.

Replying to questions on the human rights situation in Eastern Timor in Indonesia, a former Portuguese colony, Dr. Soares said that his country will continue talks with Indonesia under UN auspices. He said if needed, his country will also put pressure on Indonesia through the European Community which is the major donor to Indonesia's development. Dr. Soares said that Portugal has a large Indian population and hoped that his visit will further strengthen the relations between the two nations.

IRNA Reports Russian Offer on Arms Joint Production

LD2501153692 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 25, IRNA—Russia has offered to produce jointly with India MiG-29 aircraft and T-72M1

tanks, besides showing willingness to negotiate about the T-72S tanks. According to sources, Russia has also offered to sell its MiG-21 production line to India. Joint production would imply sharing finances equally, joint research, development and exports. Moscow is said to be willing to discuss the issue of the rupee-rouble exchange and work out a barter exchange or some other arrangement for the joint ventures.

At present, India can only produce those equipments for which it has the licence from the former Soviet Government. India has the licence to indigenise T-72M1 tanks, BMP-11 armored personnel carriers, MiG-21 BIS and MiG-27M aircrafts. It imports 50 percent of the spares required for the purpose. Sources say that the joint production scheme will strengthen Indian defence-industrial base, which, as of now, remains under utilised. Such a development will also open vast export markets, with the third world likely to absorb at least 6,800 aircraft in the next fifteen years, the sources add.

However, the timing of the Russian offer is believed to be to India's advantage. Once the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) attains a certain level of political and economic stability the offer may not be as liberal as it is now. Furthermore, negotiations with Moscow for joint ventures may provide India an opportunity to improve its bargaining position vis-a-vis the United States. An agreement to this effect is likely to be signed when the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, visits India in March. The ground for this agreement was reportedly prepared during the recent Moscow visit of Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit.

Burmese Refugees Said to Number 1,500

BK2601130092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Reports from Kohima say at least 700 refugees from Myanmar [Burma] have crossed over to India during the last 48 hours. UNI quoting official sources said Burmese citizens residing in villages bordering India have left their homeland in the wake of attacks from the Myanmar army. About 1,500 refugees have crossed into India so far.

Nagaland Grants Permits

BK2801080692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The Nagaland government has decided to issue temporary permits to about 500 refugees from Myanmar [Burma] for 15 day's stay. According to official sources, the exodus continued unabated following an attack from the Myanmar army in bordering villages. The Nagaland government has also decided to register all the refugees. Reliefs have been sent to camps in Mon and (Tusan) districts.

Solanki Returns From Japan Visit

BK2501075692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] India and Japan have agreed to further strengthen their bilateral relations. This was stated by the External Affairs Minister Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki in New Delhi today. He said Japan has shown keen interest in the economic policies of India, and a 100-member strong delegation representing business and industry is arriving in New Delhi on Monday [27 January] to identify areas of collaboration and investment in India.

Mr. Solanki, who returned to the capital early this morning after a five-day visit to Japan, said the visit was timely and fruitful.

Replying to questions by newsmen, the external affairs minister said there was no pressure or any conditionality from the Japanese side on the question of signing the nonproliferation treaty. He described as incorrect some press reports that Japan was linking aid to India with signing of the treaty.

Mr. Solanki during his visit met the Japanese prime minister and had talks with the ministers of foreign affairs and finance, the speaker of Japanese Parliament, and chairman of the chamber of commerce and industry. He said his talks covered international situation and regional and bilateral issues.

Sri Lankan Refugees Leave Under Tight Security

BK2801051292 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The second batch of 659 Sri Lankan refuges left Madras today for Trincomalee in Sri Lanka. They were taken by the Indian passenger liner, M.V. Akbar, amidst tight security. Thirty-five well-armed police commandos, a naval and a Coast Guard ship also accompanied the vessel. Most of the refugees were Sri Lankan government servants who said that they were looked after well in India.

Sikh Chief Says Pakistan Exploiting Sikh Youths

BK2401160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The Panthik [Sikh religious] Committee chief, Dr. Sohan Singh, has said that the Pakistani Government is exploiting the Sikh youth for its own purpose. In a statement in Amritsar, Dr. Sohan Singh said Islamabad is helping the Punjab militants because it wants Kashmir and not because it is interested in the affairs of the Sikhs. Dr. Sohan Singh said that the Sikh youths who had gone to Pakistan during Operation Blue Star had been subjected to torture. Even now, several Sikh youths are languishing in Pakistani jails.

Referring to the killing of innocent people in terrorist violence, Dr. Sohan Singh said militants are doing it on the instigation of foreign agencies. He called upon the

militants to secure the support of the people for their viewpoint through democratic means and not by terror.

Rao Stresses 'No Going Back' on Economic Reforms

BK2701052092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has reaffirmed his government's commitment to liberalize the country's economy and make it globally competitive. In an interview to a Dubayy-based English daily, Mr. Rao said that there is no going back on the present economic policies. He said that the government is open to any new suggestion for NRIs' [non-resident Indians] participation on a long-term basis in the country's economic development.

The prime minister said the government is considering steps to liberalize the policy on gold, keeping in view the implications on the foreign exchange reserve and the balance of payments position.

Minister Hopes Inflation Will in Ease 6 Months

BK2801051492 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, says he is confident that the inflationary pressure on the economy will be contained in the next six months. He said this during a discussion with an eight-member team of the Asian Development Bank [ADB] executive directors in New Delhi today. The finance minister apprised the visiting team of economic reforms initiated by the government and said that the Narasimham Committee report on the financial system is being examined.

Dispelling doubts about the continuance of the reforms, Dr. Singh said that the structural adjustment program initiated by the government is irreversible. He said that the government has adopted a policy of consensus in this regard. Dr. Singh thanked ADB for the help extended to India to tide over its foreign exchange crisis and hoped that ADB will be a little more open to the needs of the Indian economy. The ADB team led by Victor Frank Junior expressed their appreciation over the measures taken by the government.

Iran

Further on Official Visit by Libya's Jallud

Meets With Khamene'i

LD2701180692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of Muslims, met today with Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, and his accompanying delegation. Khamene'i termed the present era as the era of growth and renewed blossoming of Islam throughout the world. He described the efforts of the United States and her allies to suppress Islamic fronts in the world as futile and ineffective.

The leader of the Islamic revolution pointed to the United States' bullying threats against Islamic countries, notably Libya, and said: America and her allies will never be able to suppress the sentiments and yearnings of the Muslim people with these kinds of threats. The Islamic country of Iran, too, as a revolutionary country, will never keep silent in the face of the United States' wrong and coercive threats against an Islamic government and country. Touring officials and people have consistently condemned the U.S. onslaughts against Libya.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized that today, fortunately, global arrogance has been inflicted with many blows from Islam. He said: Today the Muslim masses all over the world are no longer demoralized, but rather their Islamic fervor has transformed them, from the moral standpoint, into a strong force.

In conclusion, the guardian of the cause of Muslims described the Islamic enthusiasm and fervor of Muslims in different parts of the world by saying: America and her allies imagined that through their extensive pressures and propaganda in the course of the past 12 years against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic fronts they could turn the world's masses from revolutionary Islam and Islamic stands and slogans. But, contrary to their expectations, today inclinations toward Islam among the Muslim masses in Islamic countries have multiplied.

At this meeting, which was also attended by First Vice President Habibi and Foreign Minister Velayati, and a group of other Iranian and Libyan officials, Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of Libya's Revolution Command Council, opined that the U.S. threats against Libya stem from Libya's positive stands toward Islamic countries. He said: We believe that his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i is shouldering the responsibility of the leadership of the revolution of the age and the world of Islam, and is bearing responsibility for that same trust and mission that his holiness Imam Khomeyni carried. Without doubt, victory will belong to the Muslims!

He added: The West and East have now united against Islam and believe that their only enemy is progressive Islam [eslam-e moteraqqi]. When America was unable to benefit from the cruel war that she imposed on the Islamic revolution of Iran through Saddam, she now—taking advantage of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, and also by instigating the oil war and war in the Persian Gulf region—wants to once again demonstrate her hegemony over the Arab world. By supporting Israel extensively and making Arab leaders compromise, she also wants to bring an end to the Palestine issue. Unfortunately, the Arabs have not

only not achieved anything at the Madrid conference but instead have officially recognized Israel and whatever arrogance wanted.

Departs Tehran 27 Jan

LD2701163492 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud was seen off by First Vice President Hasan Habibi at Mehrabad airport today at the end of his three-day visit.

In Tehran Jallud held talks with senior Iranian officials including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni on the U.S. accusations and threats against Libya concerning the reported crash of a Pan American plane over Scotland in December 1988.

Among Libyan officials accompanying Jallud to Tehran was Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari.

The Islamic Republic supports the Libyan position that Western allegations against Tripoli should be investigated by an impartial international tribunal.

Commentary Views Jallud Visit

LD2601224992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mr. 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, a member of Libya's Command Council, who is on a visit to various countries presenting the viewpoints of his government on the United States charge against Tripoli and Washington's threats against his country, met with Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on Saturday. In the meeting, the special envoy from Libya briefed President Rafsanjani on the trends leading to the issuance of the UN Security Council Resolution 731 and recent United States threats to Libya.

The Iranian president, too, stressed his support for the Libyan demand to refer this dispute to a neutral forum, expressing the hope that the problems faced by Tripoli will be overcome with the backing of Islamic forces and the justice-seeking people of the world.

Last week the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on Libya to speedily respond fully and in explicit terms to the demands of America, France, and Britain in connection with the crash of a United States and a French airliner and also to the calls being made for countering international terrorism. This resolution, (?in consideration) of its legal aspects and also the questions raised by it, was when Libya had earlier specifically announced its readiness on several occasions for the investigation of the case and the United States accusat' >ns on the involvement of two Libyan nationals in the crash of the United States and French airliners in a neutral and international court. [sentence as heard]

Hence, in consideration of the manner of United States posturing on this issue, it so appears that Resolution 731 has been influenced by such a posturing. It is also inferred that the Libyan Government is required to hand over two of its nationals to the claimant party. However, under the 1971 Montreal Convention, the world's states are not obligated to hand over their accused nationals to a claimant government. Rather, they can, by relying on their legal and legitimate powers, try and punish such accused individuals in a court of law.

On this ground, the United States insistence on the delivery of the two Libyan nationals and Washington's threat to impose economic sanctions on Tripoli in the case of its refusal to accept Resolution 731 are in fact various aspects of a United States plot to aggress against Libya. This shows that America is acting on this scheme to advance its policy.

Some time ago the United States Congress approved legislation under which the United States Administration would be authorized to try in United States courts the accused from other countries. Now, considering the United States bid to evade and oppose Libya's rational and proper request to refer the case to a neutral and international court, it so appears that the fundamental status of such forums is in jeopardy.

The refusal of the big powers to resolve disputes in international courts will pose (?distress) to the global community and also to world peace that they may adopt an inhuman attitude on any pretext. [sentence as heard]

Articles Allege U.S. Support for Iraq in 1982

LD2701184892 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] London, Jan. 27, IRNA—Former U.S. intelligence and State Department officials have disclosed that Washington in order to prolong the Iraqi war against Iran, passed highly classified intelligence information to the Baghdad regime in 1982, two years earlier than was previously thought. U.S intelligence reports that the Islamic Republic had gained the upper hand early on in the war prompted the self described 'neutral' Ronald Reagan Administration to send U.S. arms, technology and intelligence to stave off the Ba'thist regime's encroaching [imminent] defeat. Iraqi commanders received satellite pictures from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency identifying Iran's military weakpoints.

William J. Casey, the then director of the notorious American spy network 'CIA', is believed to have held clandestine discussions with his Iraqi counterpart, Barzan al-Takriti—Saddam's half brother—in Baghdad in the early 1980s, 'THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE' reports. This fact was withheld by the present CIA chief, Robert Gates, during last October's Senate select committee's hearings on his nomination to

the post, even though Gates, at the time a senior aide to Casey, was responsible for collating intelligence data for the Ba'thist forces.

In 1982 the CIA refrained from preventing the illegal third party shipment of U.S. arms as well as money to Iraq via its erstwhile allies: Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Transactions involving American made arms without permission from Washington contravene U.S. export law. A year later CIA officials turned a blind eye to private U.S. arms dealers selling sophisticated Soviet weaponry to Iraq. Not only do the latest disclosures highlight the role played by the U.S. in determining, from 1982-1988, the progress of the war but they substantiate the view that U.S. aid was central to the build up of Iraq's military might which led to its subsequent invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

U.S. 'Inability' to Overthrow Saddam Seen

NC2601162992 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Jan 92 p 12

[Unattributed political commentary: "U.S. Games in Iraq"]

[Text] The Iraqi regime's future has gradually become a serious problem for the U.S. Administration. The allied forces' military victory in last year's oil war, which sparked a series of analyses on the one-sided new world order led by the United States, has now clearly turned into a large question mark following the United States' inability to overthrow the Iraqi regime. In other words, the new world order looks weaker every day that Saddam remains in power.

The Bush administration is under increasing pressures from two sides: the domestic front, from inside administration circles; and from its foreign supporters. Independent of U.S. and European pressure, countries and groups opposed to the Iraqi regime have said that Saddam's downfall is imminent. We will list some of these rumors and study the truth behind them:

—Syria's official newspapers have recently reported that Saddam's downfall is definite.

—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, says that the Iraqi regime is on its last leg.

—Mas'ud Barzani has asked for U.S. assistance to overthrow the Baghdad regime;

—Shiite groups are independently preparing to overthrow the Iraqi regime, which show that the Iraqi regime is doomed to fall.

The question asked here is: Has the Iraqi regime truly come to an end?

In searching for an answer to this question, opponents of the regime point to America. There are no signs, however, that any group is willing to take new steps; they all seem to be expecting the Bush administration to do something. Their optimism apparently comes from a recent U.S. review of its foreign policy goals for the new year. These expectations started to increase some weeks ago when U.S. newspapers began publishing details on this revision of U.S. policy. Western analysts say that George Bush is worried that Saddam's continuing rule in Iraq will damage him in the upcoming U.S. presidential elections.

Concern over the fate of the Iraqi people dictates that the Iraqi opposition based in Iran does not attach futile hopes that U.S. policy will topple Saddam. The Iraqi Muslims know that the Iraqi people are the only ones who can change the Iraqi regime. As we have said, however, this is not the issue. The issue is that Saddam's overthrow is a mere wish for the United States. In a recent interview, Bush said that Saddam is becoming more and more isolated, saying: It would have been good had one of the conditions for the cease-fire been Saddam's ouster. This, he added, does not mean that the allied forces have been defeated. Saddam will ultimately be overthrown by his opponents inside Iraq, but I cannot say when, he continued.

Needless to say, the key to the Iraqi regime's downfall is the Iraqi people's determination; it has nothing whatsoever to do with what the United States wants.

Velayati Notes 'Duty' To Help Muslim Republics

LD2501121992 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Thursday that Iranian officials felt duty bound to help their Muslim brethren in the former Soviet republics, and that this was not possible by the government sector alone.

Velayati made the remarks at a gathering of industrialists and managing directors of government and privately-owned companies at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies.

Also speaking was Deputy Foreign Minister for Educational Affairs 'Abbas Maleki who told the gathering that the Muslim republics have heavy industries, railroads and cheap labor force and urged Iranian industrialists to fill the vacuum in those republics by sound planning.

Some 250 industrialists from government and private sectors and several university professors on economics were present at the meeting.

Iran is expanding its ties with the independent republics of the defunct Soviet Union, particularly the Muslim states. Velayati is just back from a state visit to Ukraine where he handed a message from Iranian president to his Ukrainian counterpart. He also concluded some trade agreements with the authorities in Kiev.

Also the Vice President of the Turkmenistan Republic Atar Chariyev was in Iran last week and inked some

agreements with Iranian officials. Iran will export crude oil to Turkmenistan and buy gas and [passage indistinct].

Sudanese POW Released To Improve Bilateral Ties

LD2601111192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] One of the Sudanese POW's taken captive during Iraq's imposed war against Iran has been released.

The release of the aforementioned captive was carried out at the official request of the Sudanese Government to consolidate ties with that country. The POW was handed over to Sudan's ambassador to Tehran.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Opens Disarmament Conference

BK2701121192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1126 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 27 (AFP) - Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala called Monday for confidence building measures to ease security concerns in Asia as he opened a three-day meeting on disarmament and non-proliferation here.

In a speech welcoming representatives from 27 countries to the conference, Koirala called for confidence building measures ahead of talks on disarmament and urged countries to seek legal and political means to prevent conflicts.

"It has been realized as wars start in the minds of men, defences of peace must also be constructed in the minds of men," Koirala said.

"Although history is replete with recurrence of wars, endeavours for peace are the most hopeful aspects of human civilization."

"The relentless quest for peace proves that tensions and conflicts born out of idealogies and narrow national interests are not permanent and not the essential part of human society," he said.

In the speech, Koirala said there had been considerable breakthroughs in Asia, with Cambodia's peace accord being implemented and the Koreas signing agreements on non-aggression and reconciliation.

"Confrontations are turning happily into cooperative acts on building a new future. We are at threshold of a new direction to the future based hopefully, on a realistic assessment of the past," he said.

Experts on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation from Australia, Canada, Bangladesh, China, Germany, India, Japan, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United States, Nepal, Switzerland, Mongolia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are attending the meeting.

Koirala praised a visit to New Delhi by Chinese Premier Li Peng as positive step in improving relations between the two neighbours which have been strained by a border war more than two decades ago and by ideological differences.

He also said the decision by Pakistan and India to sign an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear facilities in the event of war would enhance confidence in the region.

"Confidence-building measures on security are preconditions for any substantive talks on arms control and disarmament. These measures are incremental in nature and will be the result of patient negotiations for the creation of a more positive Asia-Pacific security environment starting at the regional level," Koirala told the conference.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Leaves For World Economic Forum

BK2801083992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, left Lahore this morning for Geneva to attend the World Economic Forum beginning there on Friday [31 January]. He is the first Pakistani head of government who has been invited to address the forum which indicates world-wide recognition of the economic reforms introduced by the present government. During his six-day stay in Switzerland, the prime minister is expected to hold bilateral talks with a number of world leaders, including the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng.

The prime minister's delegation includes the federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz; the interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain; the commerce minister, Malik Naim Khan; the Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali; the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo; the secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki; Foreign Secretary Mr. Shaharyar Khan, and a group of prominent industrialists and businessmen.

Talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport before leaving for Geneva, the finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, said that the prime minister's visit would enable some 600 to 800 top executives from all over the world to have first-hand information about economic reforms initiated by the present government and also opens an awareness for foreign investment in Pakistan. He said Pakistan would be focal country at the moot organized by a private organization of international repute and prestige. He said there will be two briefing sessions on Pakistan and the prime minister will address the forum on Sunday.

Government Supports UN Meeting on Afghan Issue

BK2701160992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has decided to support the UN secretary general's efforts for convening an assembly of Afghan leaders to decide on an interim government acceptable to the Afghans and to facilitate the convening of such an assembly. Announcing this at a news conference in Islamabad today, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, said the decision has been made to help accelerate the political process for a just settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Besides facilitating the convening of the representative assembly, Pakistan would also respect its outcome. Kanjoo urged all Afghan mojahedin organizations and patriotic Afghan elements to cooperate with the efforts of the United Nations to reach a consensus on the political settlement of the problem. For its part, the Pakistani Government will continue its coordination, especially with the Islamic Conference Organization, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other Islamic countries in the region, to help in advancing the UN initiative.

The minister of state referred to Pakistan's efforts to create unity among Afghan mojahedin ranks and said that the possibilities of a just settlement of the Afghanistan problem has considerably increased following the historic changes in the former Soviet Union.

Answering a question, the minister of state said it is for the UN secretary general to finalize the venue for the proposed Afghan assembly, but Pakistan will be happy to play the host, if it is asked to do so.

In reply to a question about the acceptance of the Kabul regime representative's participation in the assembly, Kanjoo said it is for the United Nations to remove obstacles in this regard and to invite only those who are acceptable to all sides. The minister clarified that the government of Pakistan does not want to keep any Afghan group from this process and their efforts would be to create unity among Afghan groups to ensure their participation in the process.

Nawaz Sharif Reaffirms Support for Kashmir

BK2501091292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has reaffirmed Pakistan's moral, diplomatic, and political support to the ongoing struggle of the people of occupied Kashmir for free exercise of their right to self determination. He was inaugurating a weeklong meeting of the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee in Islamabad today. He called upon India to respect human rights of the people of occupied Kashmir.

The prime minister said Pakistan has consistently supported the rights of the Afghan and Palestinian people. Pakistan remains steadfast in its moral and political support to the struggling Afghans. He emphasized that a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan is essential to enable the refugees to return home voluntarily. Pakistan's quest for a political settlement in Afghanistan continues and it was for [word indistinct] within the framework of the five-point proposal of the UN Secretary General.

He said Pakistan has extended consistent and resolute support to the struggle of the Palestinian brethren. He hoped that the peace process initiated at the Madrid conference last year would lead to a just and comprehensive political settlement in the dispute.

President, Premier Greet Indian Counterparts

BK2601035092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif have greeted the Indian president and the prime minister on the Republic Day of that country today. In their separate messages, they expressed the hope that the two countries will continue to strive for the establishment of tension-free and cooperative relations by finding a solution to bilateral disputes through friendly negotiations. They reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to establishing good-neighborly and friendly relations with India for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries and for peace and stability in the South Asian region.

PRC Envoy Holds Talks With Joint Staff Chief

BK2801070692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah had a meeting with Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Shamim Alam Khan at the Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi. They exchanged views on matters relating to the armed forces and general defense situation of the country. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jin Guihua also called on General Shamim Alam Khan and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest of the two friendly countries.

Libyans Seek Bhutto Mediation in U.S. Ties

BK2501072492 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 24 Jan 92 p 1

[By Mohammad Ismail]

[Text] Islamabad—The visiting Libyan leaders have urged Pakistan's opposition leader in the National Assembly Ms. Benazir Bhutto to play mediatory role in defusing tension created by United States accusation that Libya was shielding terrorists.

Opposition sources told the Frontier Post that Bhutto was asked to use her good offices in removing certain misunderstandings between the USA and Libya. But it was not clear how she would play such a role.

Sources claimed that she could play a role because of her respect in US and Libya.

Former prime minister specially flew to capital on Thursday morning to meet the visiting Libyan leader, Major Abd Al-Salam Jallud, Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi's close confident. After the meeting in the Libyan Embassy she flew back to Karachi in the evening.

Meanwhile, according to a PPP [Pakistan People's Party] press release. [as published] Major Jallud explained the Libyan position with regard to the Lockerbie air crash of a Pan Am plane complaining that his country was being blamed unjustly and without any evidence.

Benazir Bhutto, assuring him support on behalf of her party, said that PPP would like to see an honourable political solution to the crisis. Stability and welfare of the Libyan people were the stability and welfare of not only Pakistan but entire Muslim ummah," she maintained.

The two leaders discussed at some length the international situation as it affected the Muslim countries resulting from the break up of the Soviet Union and the emerging scenario of unipolar world.

They viewed with concern the present backwardness of Muslim countries and the prevalent disunity and expressed the need to develop a vision of unity and progress.

Paying tributes to Ms Benazir Bhutto, Libyan leader said that her election to the office of prime minister had demonstrated to the world that Islamic ummah was capable of producing women leaders of great calibre.

The PPP press release further said that Jallud explained to the former premier the Libyan position on the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland. It did not give details.

Bhutto told him that the party would like to see an "honorable political solution," to the "crisis."

The PPP leader is considered a friend of Libyan leader Al- Qadhdhafi who had close links with her father, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Z.A. Bhutto was overthrown as prime minister in 1977 and later executed during the rule of late military ruler General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Zia, who died in a mysterious 1988 plane crash, had turned down, Al-Qadhdhafi's call to stop the execution, leading to strained relations between the two countries.

PPP sources said Jallud met with Bhutto for more than an hour.

Ms Bhutto expressed her gratitude to Jallud for the support Libya had given Pakistan in its dispute with India over Kashmir during her rule, which ended with her dismissal by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August, 1990.

While in Delhi, Jallud was reported to have assuaged Indian resentment over inclusion of a reference to Kashmir in a draft on the issue of terrorism circulated by Libya in the UN General Assembly.

He reportedly told Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao that it was a "mistake' to have included Kashmir in the draft. The reference was reportedly deleted afterwards.

Informed sources here said the reports were received with concern in Pakistani official circles.

The Libyan number two is to leave here today, a day earlier than the scheduled departure, official sources here said.

The Libyan number two arrived here on Wednesday after a visit to China and a stopover in New Delhi en route to Pakistan.

Libya Asked To Consult With UN on Pan Am Case

BK2601100492 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[By Anwar Iqbal]

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has asked Libya to consult UN Secretary General on US demand to hand over two Tripoli agents, Washington believes were responsible for the 1988 crash of a Pan Am airliner, a senior official of the Foreign Office said Friday.

"We asked them to contact the UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali, explain their position to him and let him assess the right and wrong of their case," said the official Pakistan conveyed this proposal to Libya during high level talks between the two countries in Islamabad this week.

Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Libya's de factor prime minister and Colonel Qadhdhafi's number two man, arrived here Wednesday for talks with Pakistan on the US demand.

"We advised them not to oppose this week's UN resolution as it has already been adopted by the Security Council," the officiald said.

Passed on the day Jallud came to Islamabad, the resolution supports Washington's demand for extradition.

An amendment proposed by the non-aligned group gave mandate to the UN Secretary General to mediate between Libya and the US over the issue.

"Pakistan told the Libyan delegation the amendment has saved it from immediate pressure and it should avail this opportunity," said the official.

Libya also requested a public statement from Pakistan condemning the resolution, but they were told Islamabad was not in a position to do so.

"The Libyans should realise we are now living in a different world. A year ago the Security Council could not have adopted the resolution as the Soviets might have vetoed it but the Soviet Union is no more there," said the officer while explaining Pakistan's position.

Despite their common Islamic background, Libya and Pakistan have had problems before and they don't see eye to eye on a number of international issues.

A Libyan somersault on the Kashmir dispute earlier this week caused further disappointment in Pakistan, where people expect the Islamic countries to support them on this issue because India is suppressing the Muslim population of the Kashmir Valley.

Earlier this month Libya announced it was submitting a resolution against terrorism to the UN which mentions Kashmir as an unresolved issue.

But during his meeting with the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in New Delhi Tuesday, Jallud said Libya had realised its mistake and was detaching Kashmir from the resolution.

According to Foreign Office source the Libyans have noted the resentment showed in Pakistan against Jallud's statement in New Delhi, during the talks they reminded Pakistan that at the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] meetings in Dakkar and Istanbul, Libya voted for the resolutions favouring Pakistan's position on Kashmir.

They assured Islamabad that their stand on Kashmir has not changed since then.

The proposed resolution calls for a special UN session on terrorism.

The UN has held special sessions on issues like South Africa, Palestine and disarmament but all the issues had widespread international support when the resolutions demanding a debate were moved. The Libyan resolution does not enjoy such support.

He also discussed the proposed resolution with the Pakistani leaders during his stay in Islamabad. "We told them that their proposal" had very little chance to succeed, instead of opposing UN resolutions of Pan Am crash, they should talk to international bodies that could held them coming out of the crisis," said the official.

He said when a senior Libyan diplomat came to Islamabad last month for similar talks Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif asked Libya to discuss the issue with the Montreal based International Civil Aviation Organisation and seek their help.

Jallud who came on a three day visit to Islamabad on Wednesday [22 January], surprised Pakistani officials when he suddenly announced Thursday that he was leaving 24 hours before his scheduled departure. He flew to Tehran Friday evening.

Diplomatic Missions to Central Asia Planned

BK2701115092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Pakistan has decided on a number of steps, including opening of diplomatic missions in the Central Asian republics at ambassadorial level, to revive historic ties of common culture and faith with people of these countries. This was announced by the minister of state for foreign affairs in Islamabad today. He said diplomatic officials will be in position in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan within the next couple of weeks and it has been decided in principle also to have missions in other Central Asian republics. The minister of state said the steps were being taken under the personal direction of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in response to the historic developments that have taken place in Central Asia.

Sri Lanka

VOA Expansion To Go Ahead Despite Protests

BK2601033892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Sri Lanka says it is determined to support the plans of the Voice of America to expand its broadcasting facilities in the country despite opposition, mainly from the Catholic Church. Agency reports quote Sri Lankan Prime Minister Wijetunge as saying that the expansion program will not harm the interests of the island country. Voice of America proposes to modernize its relay station, but the Catholic Church says it may be misused for gathering military information.

Civilians Killed in LTTE Landmine Blast

BK2601105892 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0945 GMT 26 Jan 92

["Oana/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Eight civilians were killed and 17 injured when a crowded private bus was blown up this morning by a powerful LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] landmine in the eastern district of Ampara. One airman was also killed and seven others wounded in a confrontation with the terrorists when they rushed to the rescue of the bus passengers. The injured were airlifted to the Ampara and Maha Oya hospitals.

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH the tragedy occurred at 0930 hours local time (0400 hours GMT) at the 34th mile post on the Ampara-Maha Oya road.

While eight bus passengers were killed and 17 wounded in the landmine blast, one airman was killed and seven others wounded, when an air force patrol in the vicinity of the the explosion, rushed to the scene of the crime and

confronted the terrorists. The brave and timely intervention of the airmen forced the terrorists to withdraw after a firefight and saved the lives of the passengers who escaped death in the landmine blast.

Five LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed in Batticaloa

BK2601120092 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0948 GMT 26 Jan 92

["Oana/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—The security forces Saturday [25 January] in an ambush killed five LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and captured another with an AK- 47 rifle, travelling in a tractor at Karadiyanaru in the eastern Batticaloa district, the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH.

Government troops also seized a tractor with a trailer, 28 gunny bags of rice, barrels of petrol, 11 gunny bags of biscuits and stocks of torch batteries, medical supplies, dry rations and hand grenades.

President's Message to India on Republic Day

BK2601115292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] India celebrates its 42d Republic Day today. On this occasion, President Ranasinghe Premadasa has sent two separate messages to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and Prime Minsiter Narasimha Rao. The president in his message to the Indian prime minister said that the people and the government of Sri Lanka join him in conveying warm felicitations and sincere good wishes on the occasion of the Republic Day of India. The traditionally-close relations between the two countries have been founded on a common cultural and spiritual heritage that stretches far into the past. In modern times, the two countries have worked together to extend and enhance their ties in all spheres for the mutual benefit of the peoples of both countries. A full potential of their relationship is now being further developed. The message further states that the recently-established Indo-Sri Lanka joint commission provided the practical framework for promoting closer cooperation between the two governments in the economic and cultural fields. As member states of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], our cooperation in the regional context will be to the common benefit of the two countries, particularly at this stage in the development of the association when the two countries were focussing on the vital core areas of economic cooperation. The president has stated that the opportunity he had for personally discussing with the Indian prime minister the full range of bilateral relation, when the latter visited Colombo for the sixth SAARC summit has been most useful and the president said that he was looking forward to continuing the dialogue in the spirit of mutual understanding, cooperation, and goodwill.

To mark this occasion, the Indian High Commission conducted the flag hoisting ceremony at India house in Colombo this morning.